



## Meet Some Warblers...

## Fun Facts



Ovenbird



Bay-Breasted



Blackpoll



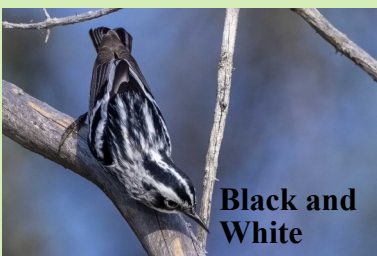
Prothonotary



American Redstart



Cape May



Black and White



Common Yellowthroat



Yellow Warbler

These beautiful warblers all visit the Refuge as migrants, some staying to breed here.

Photos by Bruce Bartel

### “Warblers and Wild Flowers”

By Scott Lee

I kind of take pride in my knowledge of our natural world. It helps being in my mid-70s, as it's given me a lot of hours enjoying (and in the process, studying) nature. I often get asked by young people, “How do you know so much about nature?” I simply tell them that I got old so I've had a lot of time to learn – simple as that!

When spring and early summer roll around, however, I become very humbled. It's all because of those darned warblers and wild flowers! They have to be the two most frustrating living things in my nature-loving life ... and they drive me crazy! They show up for a couple weeks in the spring or early summer and then disappear. Most of the warblers head north to their preferred nesting sights and are nowhere to be seen for the next 50 or so weeks. They then show up almost a year later and I'm expected to remember which is which? You “superstar” birders that do remember them must have a whole lot better memory than me. And you not only remember them by sight, but also their sound. I am so jealous (and a bit angry)!

The same goes for those wild flowers. The early ones are especially frustrating. They show up in the spring and look so beautiful, not to mention how good they make us all feel after surviving our upper Midwest winters.

## Notes from the Friends President

Happy Summer! The summer season is off to a great start. The Friends hosted a "Plein Air Artists in the Refuge" event on June 3rd. Eight artists painted outdoors that morning and Refuge visitors watched them paint, asked questions, and joined the artists for lunch at the OWL Center. The artists displayed their beautiful morning artwork during the luncheon. It was fun to see all the artistic talent on display. We had a great turnout and hope to host another plein air art event in Spring or Fall of 2024.



Artist Colleen Shore

Remember to send in your photos for our current Refuge Photo Contest. Entries are due by December 1st, 2023.

The Friends have events planned for July, August and September at the Refuge's Outdoor Wonders Learning Center. Check the Save the Date box below for details. We hope you can join us.

Have a wonderful summer at the Refuge!

**Val Critzman**  
Friends President

### Save The Date!

"Tuesday, July 18th, 6:00-7:30pm - "Going on a Dragon Hunt" with Dan Jackson, naturalist and past president of Wisconsin Dragonfly Society.

Thursday, August 24th, 6:30-7:30pm - "Cranes Over Wisconsin" Learn about Sandhill and Whooping Cranes from International Crane Foundation experts. Discover how to identify these birds by sight and sound, where they can be found today, conservation efforts, and opportunities for communities to be stewards to their local cranes.

Tuesday, September 12th, 6:00 - 7:00pm - "Photographing Nature" with Bruce Bartel. Learn nature photography techniques from an expert photographer and enjoy his amazing photos.

Then the trees start leafing out, what should be another welcome sight after the long winter, and those darned flowers disappear. Again not to be seen for some 50 weeks. And again we're expected to remember their names. It's just not fair! Yes, getting older may be an asset for learning about nature, but it sure doesn't help in the warblers and wildflowers aspect of that learning process – and I don't like it one bit! It almost makes me happy to get past spring to this time of year so I can start looking like "I know so much about nature" again.



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Would you like to contact the refuge? Here's how!

Call 608-539-2311

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/trempealeau/>

Or the refuge Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TrempealeauNWR)

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The [Friends of Trempealeau Refuge](http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org) is committed to providing an independent citizen voice for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitats at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge.