

Winter  
2022

# Friends of Trempealeau Refuge

## Friends Focus...

### Winter fun!

Each season has something to offer. Winter brings the silence and tranquility of a landscape covered in a majestic white blanket. Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge has already seen quite a bit of snow this season, making it an ideal place to enjoy the wonders of winter. We've seen visitors enjoying wildlife photography, walking with their furry friend, while others enjoy a variety of winter recreational activities such as ice-fishing, snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. With snow covered prairies and ice capped wetlands, the winter season is here and so are great opportunities to explore the refuge. Bundle up and come enjoy the winter scenery at Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge!

Dana M. Schelling  
Refuge Ranger



Snowshoeing at Pine Creek Dike

By Dana M. Schelling / USFWS

## Birds at Trempealeau Refuge

The annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count for the Trempealeau, WI area was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Winter, Lisa Reid, Heather Bach and Cheryl Groom were volunteer counters at the Trempealeau Refuge that day and recorded 27 species totaling 777 birds.

Interesting finds in the Refuge and surrounding area included 20 Trumpeter Swans, 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Northern Shrike and 30 American Robins. A very rare sighting of 2 Western Meadowlarks was also documented by the counters.



### Finding your Way!

The Friends Group recently purchased 2 free standing Refuge Event signs to post near entrances to the Refuge on Event days.

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## Note from the Friends President

Hello Friends! If you visit the Refuge and wonder about all the boot tracks near the OWL Center and Observation Deck, they're from ninety G-E-T first graders who were having their Trempealeau Refuge Winter Experience! They had a wonderful time finding the tree they adopted during their Fall Experience and noticing the differences this winter. They made pinecone birdseed feeders and hung them on the trees. They will be back to visit in the spring.



### Save the Dates:

**January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – 6:30 p.m. in the OWL Center. Friends of Trempealeau Refuge is pleased to present “Our Own Wilderness: Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge.” This free program is a narrated DVD of Refuge photos taken over many years by the late Bill Draskowski .

**January through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023** – **Best of the Refuge Photo Contest** sponsored by the Friends for adult and youth amateur photographers. Brochures/entry forms available at the Refuge and the Friends website @ [friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org](http://friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org)

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – **Friends Annual Membership Meeting** at the OWL Center. Program on Bald and Golden Eagles by Scott Mehus from the National Eagle Center. Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. Program: 7:00 p.m. Watch for more details.

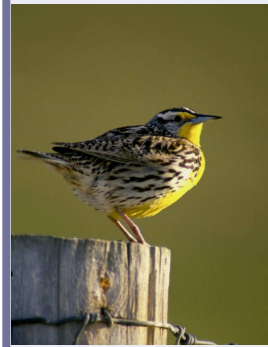
**June 3, 2023** – **Artists in the Refuge.** Pre-selected artists will set up their easels early that morning for a Plein Air Event. Watch for more details as spring draws near.

Come visit your Refuge to drive the loop or hike the roads and trails during this winter wonderland.

That's all for now!

*-Val Critzman, Friends President*

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The **Western Meadowlark** nests on the ground in open grasslands across western and central North America. It

feeds mostly on bugs.



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<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Trempealeau-Refuge-100276838553902>  
<http://www.friendsoftrempealeaurefuge.org>



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)

**TrempealeauNWR**

And “Like” us!

### 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

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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.