

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

God's creation has been the subject of several of my recent letters, and today is no exception. This Saturday (May 8) is the "2021 World Migratory Bird Day." An event that day at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge is entitled, "sing, fly, soar!" It is a day to celebrate the many birds that migrate, and to welcome them back to Wisconsin and the Driftless Area.

The Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, in Trempealeau, Wisconsin, will be offering some special hikes on Saturday. (Trempealeau is 60 miles from Wilton, and a very easy drive. The refuge is located along the Mississippi River.) There will be six guided group hikes taking participants to see the natural habitats of the birds. The first tours begin at 7:00 a.m., and the second tours begin at 9:00 a.m. Please call 608-539-2311, ext. 1 to register your spot.

On Friday evening, May 7, at 7:00 p.m., there is a Zoom presentation entitled, "Bird Migration: The Incredible Journeys of North American Birds." The presenter is Stan Tekiela, and the presentation is based on his new book. The Trempealeau NWR website states, "In this presentation, Stan Tekiela will share magnificent photographs of migrating birds along with interesting facts that will help shed some light on some of the secrets of bird migration" (www.fws.gov/nwrs). For more information and the Zoom link, visit the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge FB (Facebook) event page.

If you are unable to participate in one of the guided hikes, there will be self-guided birding stations posted until May 14 at the refuge. Wear your comfortable shoes, bring your binoculars (if you have them), and join others in this special time of celebrating migratory birds and all birds.

If you wish to stay closer to home, you could go to Kickapoo Valley Reserve or Wildcat Mountain State Park, and look for birds as you walk on the trails. One never knows what one will find until one begins to explore! As always, I encourage you to go to your local library to check out books with pictures of birds prior to your walk. You can use them to learn about some of the birds that you might see during your adventure.

If you prefer, you can go outside in your backyard, or for a walk in your neighborhood. All of these options are available to you, so why not go outdoors and give it a try! (Attached is a recent photo from one of my close-to-home adventures.)

We live in a beautiful area where we do not have to go far to enjoy the many wonders of God's creation. Please join me in learning about God's birds this week, as we thank God for giving us many different types of birds to enjoy each and every day. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

