The Big Sit Bird Watching Event

Sunday, October 13, 6:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
Powers-Walker House—Glacial Park

Hosted by Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge & McHenry County Audubon Society with support from Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week at The Big Sit, an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. The concept is simple: find a good spot for bird watching, sit in one spot for a designated time period, and count all the bird species you see or hear. The Big Sit falls in October when fall migration is in full swing.

Gather your closest bird-watching friends for a bird-a-thon, a perfect excuse to share good stories, meet new friends, enjoy the outdoors and appreciate our fine feathered friends. Stop by for a few minutes, stay a few hours or join the whole 12-hour sit. Bring a lawn chair and your binoculars and layered clothing. For more information visit Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge - hackmatacknwr.org.

Migration Madness

Migratory Madness Evening DROP-IN

Ages 14+
Wednesday, September 11, 5:30–8 p.m.
Glacial Park, Kettle Parking Lot, Ringwood
Fee: Free Code: 6261

Join volunteer bird enthusiast Dave Miller on a search for migratory birds stopping over at Glacial Park. After the hike we’ll gather to compare notes and tally up all the species we spotted. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

VIP Sandhill Crane Experience Ages 14+
Sunday, October 6, 5–8 p.m.
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Overlook Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Fee: R $30.00/NR $40.00 Code: 6266 Register by 10/3.

Sunset in the valley below the Lost Valley Visitor Center is made even more spectacular this time of year when the sandhill cranes gather on their migratory route southward. Graceful and majestic with a haunting call, these birds are perfectly situated below the windows of the Lost Valley Overlook Room. We will start your special evening with a presentation on the natural history of cranes, followed by plenty of time to watch and listen to the birds. Finally, we will cap off this wonderful evening with a catered dinner and camaraderie.