

## **Banding Birds and Bears at the State Forest**



The month of August brings a close to this year's naturalist programming at the state forest. The final two programs are on some of our smallest creatures, banding songbirds, and on one of our largest – bears. Each of these events is made possible due to a partnership with Beaver Creek Reserve, an outdoor education center in Fall Creek Wisconsin that has been in existence since 1961. All events are free other than the requirement of a state park and forest permit for all vehicles entering the site.

The bird banding event is on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM at the Castle Mound shelter. Certified banders will set up mist nets to capture and band songbirds. Learn how information from bird banding has contributed to a better understanding of our feathered friends. Learn techniques for identifying, aging, and sexing our native songbirds. You may even get a chance to feel the heartbeat of a bird before you release it!

The final event for the year, bears of the northwoods, is on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the Castle Mound Shelter. Immensely appealing to campers, hikers, and visitors in our state's forests and parks, but often misunderstood, to many the black bear is a symbol of wilderness. While their numbers are increasing across the state, few people understand the natural history of these secretive creatures. Join a Reserve Naturalist to learn all about bears.

This is the first year of partnering with Beaver Creek Reserve to provide naturalist events. We will be assessing the various programs, attendance, and comments from visitors in determining what programming we may offer in the future. We hope this is the start of a long history in providing outdoor educational opportunities at the state forest.

To learn more about these programs and the state forest please access our website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/StateForests/SF-BlackRiver/>. Or please call us at (715) 284-4103.