

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Necedah

*National Wildlife Refuge*



*One thousand years ago this land was a vast peat bog with sand ridges which evolved through time into Necedah's wetlands and woodlands.*

*In 1939, Necedah – Ho Chunk for “land of yellow waters” – was established as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife.*



## Formation of a Refuge



Situated on the bed of former Glacial Lake Wisconsin and the great Central Wisconsin Swamp is a vast peat land laced with dry ridges of sand deposited by waves of melt-water. Today, this complex of wetlands, openlands, and woodlands forms the foundation for many central Wisconsin communities and the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.

Necedah is a Winnebago Indian word meaning "*land of yellow waters.*" It refers to the tawny, yellow water, stained by minerals in the soil, which drains into the Wisconsin River some seven miles east of the refuge. Besides the Winnebago (also called Ho-Chunk), this area was also inhabited at various times by the Sauk, Fox, Potawatomi and Ojibwa.

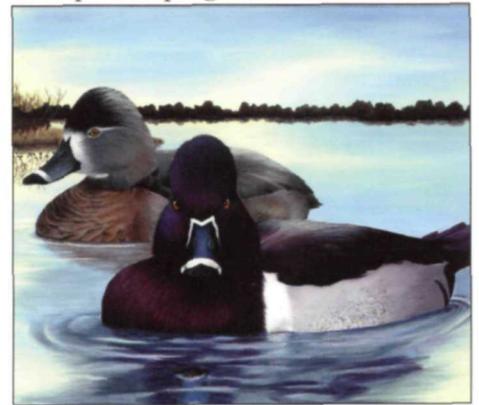
Europeans first settled this area in the late 19th century. Logging was followed by land drainage and farming, which were difficult due to short growing seasons and droughty soils. After a series of intense fires in the early 1930s, many farmsteads were abandoned and refuge lands were acquired under the *National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933* and the *Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935*. On March 14, 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt established Necedah Migratory Waterfowl Refuge "... as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife." Today, this 44,000-acre area is known as Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.



## Necedah: *Serving Wildlife, Habitat & People*



The **National Wildlife Refuge System** is a chain of over 500 refuges occupying some 97 million acres of land. Necedah National Wildlife Refuge is a vital link in this system, providing important services to wildlife, people, and the habitats which support them. In addition to fulfilling its role as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, Necedah is also responsible for preserving a natural diversity and abundance of fauna and flora, and for providing for the needs of threatened or endangered animals and plants. While the needs of wildlife are our first priority, Necedah also provides opportunities for people to enjoy and learn about our natural world through such wildlife-compatible activities as hiking, hunting, fishing, and attending educational and interpretive programs.



*The Wisconsin  
Federal Junior  
Duck Stamp  
Contest is hosted  
at the refuge.*

*Whooping Crane*



### Endangered Species

In 1860, around 1,400 whooping cranes existed in North America. Their population dwindled until it hit an all-time low of 15 birds in 1941. Slowly, that last wild flock increased in numbers, but it continued to be the sole migratory flock of whooping cranes until the turn of the century.

An experimental release of whooping crane chicks started at the refuge in 2001. The goal is to restore a self-sustaining population that migrates in eastern North America.

*Karner Blue Butterfly*



Necedah is home to the Karner blue butterfly. This tiny butterfly is dependent upon Necedah's barrens habitat. The larvae feed exclusively on wild lupine; the adults feed on nectar from a variety of wildflowers.

*Bald Eagle*



Bald eagles nest, feed, and rest on the refuge. You can usually view eagles soaring over the refuge's major wetlands.

*Gray Wolf*



Necedah National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat for the gray wolf in Wisconsin. The gray wolf, or timber wolf, was listed as federally-endangered in Wisconsin in 1967. Migrating naturally into Wisconsin from Minnesota, wolves have reclaimed their territory with several packs located in and outside the refuge.

### Nature's Calendar

*Mid-June and early August*

Annual flights of the rare Karner blue butterfly.

*Spring and Fall*

Spectacular waterbird migrations. Thousands of birds, including scaup, wigeons, swans, ring-necks, sandhill cranes, canvasbacks, mallards, teal, Canada geese and shorebirds.

*Late Summer*

Brilliant displays of wildflowers – golds, purples, magentas, whites and reds; a special treat when viewed from the shade of a large, stately oak.

*All Year*

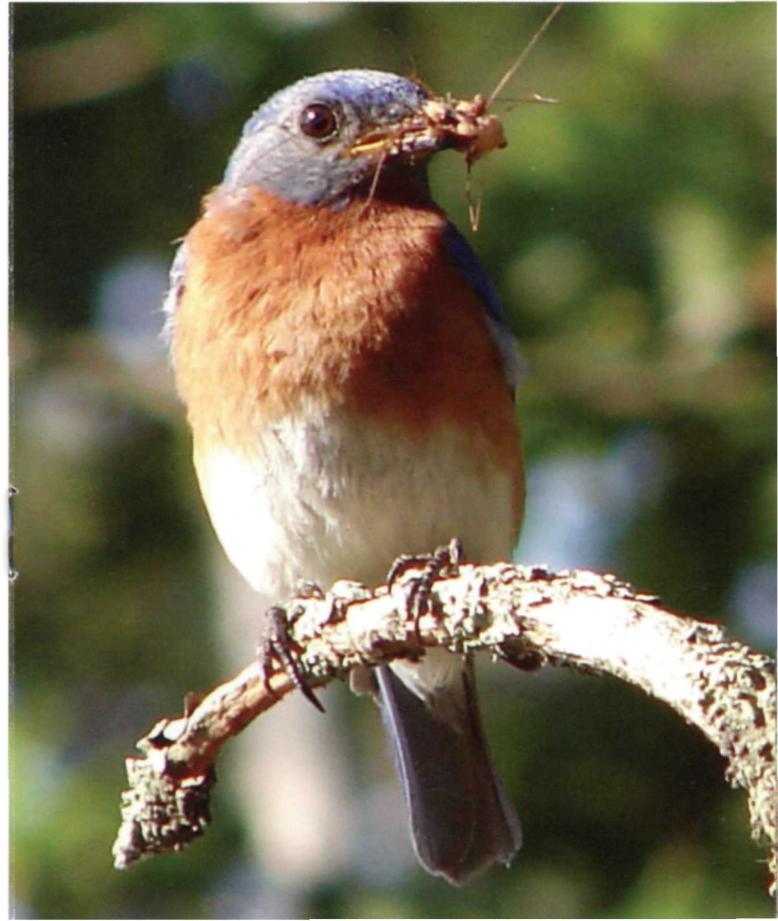
Whenever you choose to visit Necedah you may see white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse or even a black bear!

*Wildlife Viewing Tips*

### Necedah's Wildlife

Necedah's success in preserving and restoring habitat for wildlife and people is evident by the sights you see while walking the *Boghaunter Trail* or visiting the refuge's other wildlife viewing "hot spots." (See *Wildlife Viewing Hot Spots* brochure).

Many species of wildlife are best seen in the early morning and evening hours. Your vehicle makes a good blind, so drive slowly and watch for movement. Approach vistas slowly – tops of dikes and the edges of woodlands may offer rewarding views! Please move quietly to avoid disturbing wildlife.



**Activities not expressly authorized are prohibited.** If you have any questions, please check with the refuge staff.

- The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.
- Vehicles, ATV's, snowmobiles and bicycles are not permitted off public roads.
- Camping is not permitted on the refuge.
- Parking is permitted only in designated areas. Do not block gates.
- Open fires and charcoal fires are not permitted on the refuge.
- Pets must be leashed at all times unless used for hunting.

*For More  
Information*

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge  
W7996 20th Street West  
Necedah WI 54646  
Phone: 608/565 2551

*Refuge Office:*



*Office Hours:*

Near the intersection  
of the Headquarters  
Road and Grand  
Dike Road (20th  
Street West).

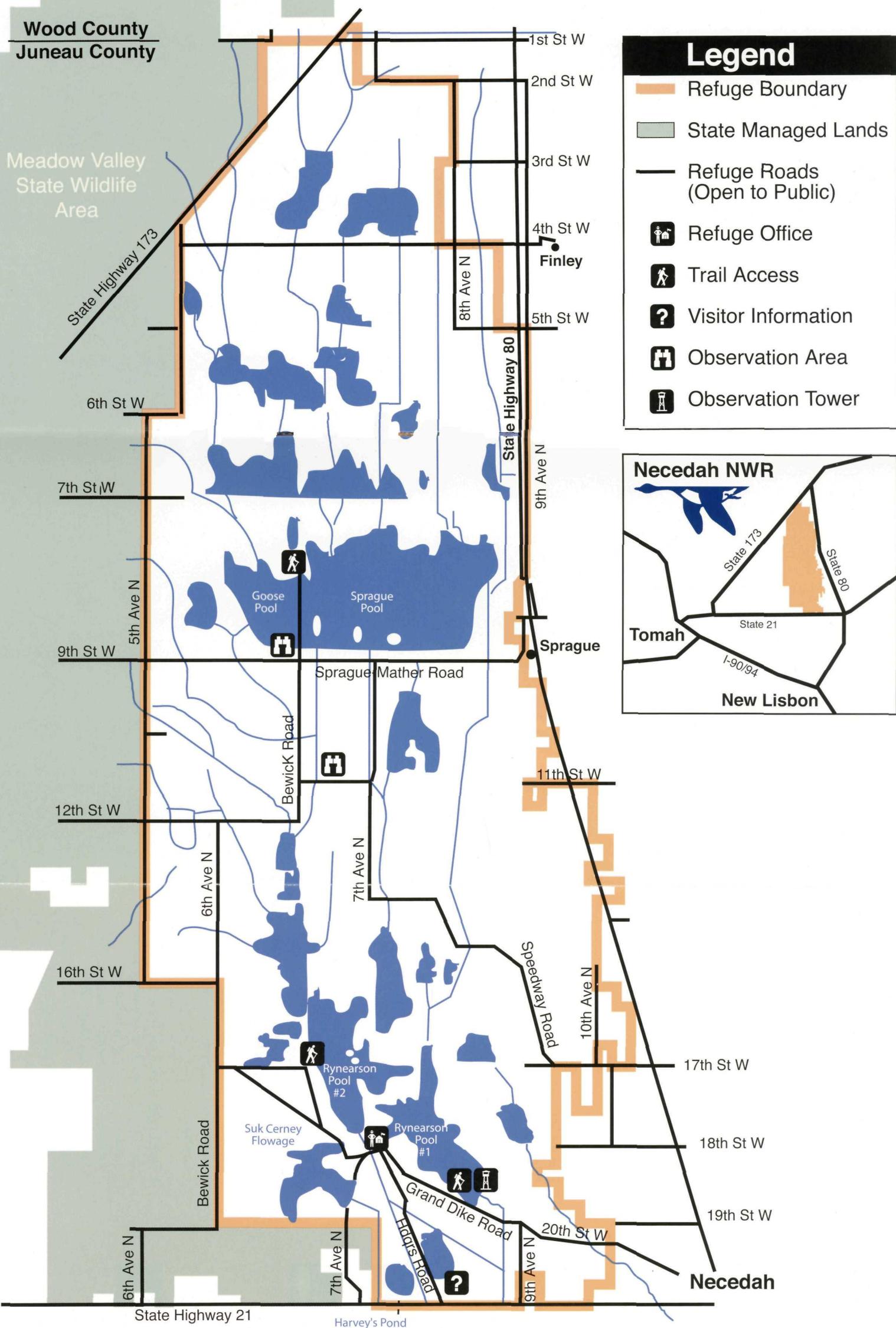
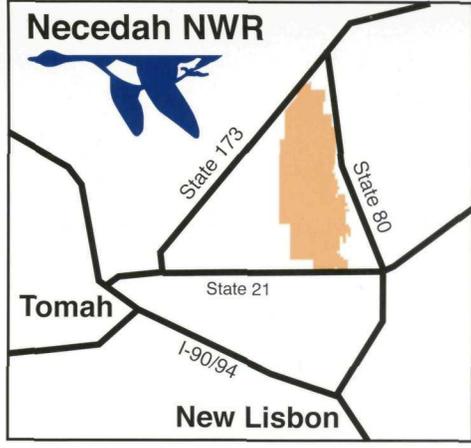
7:30 to 4:00, Monday  
through Friday

Wood County  
Juneau County

Meadow Valley  
State Wildlife  
Area

### Legend

-  Refuge Boundary
-  State Managed Lands
-  Refuge Roads (Open to Public)
-  Refuge Office
-  Trail Access
-  Visitor Information
-  Observation Area
-  Observation Tower



**NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE**



UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY  
PROHIBITED

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Rules & Regulations**

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge is an area set aside, and managed for wildlife. To avoid or reduce disturbance during critical periods, public recreation has been limited. Wildlife viewing is encouraged year-round throughout the refuge. However, except as specified in the following regulations, public activities are restricted to township roads. Authorized activities, seasons and open areas are listed below. Brochures are available for additional information on wildlife viewing, birding, hunting, fishing, and berry picking. Consult the appropriate brochures before participating in these activities.

**Refuge Activities**

- Hiking is permitted on designated trails, except during gun deer season. A *Watchable Wildlife Hot Spots* brochure is available at refuge office with nature trails identified.
- Although no groomed trails exist, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are permitted refuge-wide, December 15 - March 31.
- Fishing is permitted in designated refuge waters according to state regulations during portions of the state season. A fishing brochure is available at the refuge headquarters. Motorized boats are permitted in the Suk-Cerney flowage. Boats without motors are allowed in other open flowages.
- Hunting is permitted in certain zones during portions of the state hunting seasons. A hunting brochure is available at the refuge headquarters. ***No public activity other than hunting is permitted on the refuge during the nine day state gun deer hunting season.***
- Berry picking, birding, and hiking are permitted refuge-wide, July 1- August 15.



**Necedah National Wildlife Refuge**  
W7996 20th Street West  
Necedah, WI 54646  
(608) 565-2551

**Individuals with hearing impairments may reach Necedah through the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800/877 8339**

**E-mail Address: [Necedah@fws.gov](mailto:Necedah@fws.gov)**

**Refuge Webpage:**  
<http://midwest.fws.gov/necedah>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov/>



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Necedah

*National Wildlife Refuge*



*Whooping Crane,*  
[www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org)