



## 2023 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 121

February 14, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives BILLINGS, OLDENBURG, DOYLE, PRONSCHINSKE and TRANEL, cosponsored by Senators MARKLEIN, SMITH and PFAFF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

\*\*\*AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

1       **Relating to:** proclaiming June 7, 2024, as Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife  
2           and Fish Refuge Day.

3           Whereas, the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was  
4       formed 100 years ago by legislative action to develop systematic evaluation and  
5       management of this protected area for the future generations; and

6           Whereas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of Refuge organizations,  
7       federal and state partners, and others work to conserve, protect, and enhance habitat  
8       as a breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants for the  
9       continuing benefit of the American people; and

10          Whereas, the refuge has been designated as a Wetland of International  
11       Importance by the Ramsar Convention and a Globally Important Bird Area; and

12          Whereas, the 240,000-acre refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper  
13       Mississippi River from the confluence of the Chippewa River near Wabasha, MN, to  
14       Princeton, IA, and crosses four states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the

1 Americans who live in the communities along the river depend on the river for  
2 commerce, recreation, water supply, and environmental benefits; and

3 Whereas, the refuge hosts 3.7 million visitors annually and provides a variety  
4 of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities to the public, including  
5 opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and  
6 environmental education and interpretation; and

7 Whereas, the refuge addresses significant issues, including threatened and  
8 endangered species, waterfowl migration, neotropical migratory birds, bottomland  
9 hardwood restoration, cultural resources, public use, and forest fragmentation; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
12 Wisconsin Legislature proclaim June 7, 2024, as Upper Mississippi River National  
13 Wildlife and Fish Refuge Day in the State of Wisconsin.

14 (END)