

# Feathered Friends

Put on your walking shoes and bring your binoculars for a fun-filled day of discovery!

Come ramble the trails at SUNY Oswego's **Rice Creek Field Station** and observe the many and varied habitants of the sky and forest. From herons gathered around the pond to deer grazing in the field to plants and wildflowers just off the trails, you'll delight in seeing the abundant wildlife here. The facility is 400 acres of fields and forests and includes a 26 acre pond, exhibit areas and an indoor viewing gallery.



Continue your adventure at the **Derby Hill Bird Observatory** in Mexico and enjoy the best spring hawk-watch in the Northeast. A premiere birding location, Derby Hill offers a prime vantage point for viewing the spring migration of thousands of birds. In the spring of 1995, a world-record total of nearly 20,000 Red-tailed Hawks were counted here with more than 4,500 of these sightings on just one day – April 11!

Stop at **Arena's Eis House Restaurant** in Mexico for lunch and take in the award-winning gardens from the glass gallery.

Journey on to Clayton and experience the newest recreational and educational attraction on the St. Lawrence River! Enjoy breath-taking photographic opportunities and possible wildlife sightings with a **Clayton Island Tours** guided adventure cruise. A staff naturalist will discuss the history and ecological significance of each setting along this majestic river. These fun and informative tours depart from Riverside Drive and travel along the historic waterfront out to the local islands. This is a unique opportunity to view the wildlife of the Thousand Islands region, including osprey, terns, double-breasted cormorants, great blue heron, mink, turtles and fish. The tour includes a pleasant 45-minute nature walk on **Grindstone Island** where you may spot frogs and reptiles sunning on the trail.

Then visit the **Minna Anthony Common Nature Center** at the **Wellesley Island State Park**. Enjoy the great outdoors as you wander through a variety of habitats including wooded wetlands, three miles of shoreline and open granite outcrops. Explore unique geological features such as glacial potholes and Eel Bay, a prime duck migration area. The nature center features a museum and eight miles of trails, including a quarter-mile handicap accessible trail with picnic tables and a seasonal butterfly house.

