

2009 American Wetlands Month Events

Nationwide

May 9 – International Migratory Bird Day

Typically held on the second Saturday in May, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is celebrated whenever migratory bird arrival is celebrated in your own community. Interactive maps at the IMBD website can help you find an International Migratory Bird Day Festival event near you.

Website: <http://www.birdiq.com/journey/index.html>

May 12 - National Wetlands Award Ceremony

2009 marks the 20th Anniversary of the National Wetlands Awards program. Since 1989, the program has honored 143 champions of wetlands conservation. The Environmental Law Institute, EPA, and other federal partners will honor a diverse group of individuals for their extraordinary commitment to conserving wetlands at an award ceremony on Capitol Hill.

Website: <http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org>

Contact: (202) 939-3842; wetlandsawards@eli.org

May 15 - Write On! Wetlands Challenge

The Write On! Wetlands Challenge creates a book written by kids for kids in honor of American Wetlands Month. Students from across the nation compete to write a wetland story...and the winner is published as a book! Grades 6-8, authors' challenge. Grades K-5, illustrators challenge. Winners announced May 15.

Website: <http://www.wetland.org>

Contact: Laurie Raines, Environmental Concern. 410-745-9620; educate@wetland.org

May 28 - Watershed Academy Webcast: Wetlands - Reconnecting Youth with Nature

Join us from 1-2:30 PM EDT for this special American Wetlands Month webcast as we explore the unique role wetlands can play in reconnecting young people with nature. Distinguished speakers Richard Louv from the Children & Nature Network, Suzanne Pittenger-Slear from Environmental Concern, and Davon Kenneth Johnson from Earth Conservation Corps will discuss their groups' efforts to reverse trends that have seen our youth become more distanced from the natural world and have less meaningful experiences with nature. Details can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/webcasts/>.

Alaska

May 7-10 - Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

Alaska will experience a special celebration of spring when the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, the state's largest wildlife festival, kicks off in early May. Festival participants can

choose between over 50 different events, from advanced ornithology workshops, beginning backyard birding presentations, field trips and boat tours to arts events and children's activities.

Contact: Christina M Whiting, Festival Coordinator, 907-235-7740; shorebirdster@gmail.com

May 7-10 - Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival

In early May, the tidal flats of the Copper River Delta shimmer with the activity of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds. As many as 5 million shorebirds rest and feed here during spring migration. The Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival provides the ideal opportunity for bird watchers to be part of this epic migration. Many activities, workshops and community events are offered throughout the festival. We invite you to join us in Cordova for the premier birding event of the new millennium.

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Kodiak NWR

Join staff at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge for a number of activities to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day.

Website: www.kodiakwildliferefuge.org

Contact: Tina Shaw, 907-487-2626; Tina.Shaw@fws.gov

May 16 - Birding Festival at Tetlin NWR -Tok

Join us for the 8th annual Upper Tanana Valley Migratory Bird Festival. The day begins with a morning family bird watching trip followed by a bird banding demonstration. In conjunction with this year's theme "Celebrating Birds in Culture", grade school students will be presenting skits, puppet shows and artwork related to the Athabascan culture and cultures around world. As in previous years, there will be the Young Naturalist and Junior Duck Stamp Art Contests. These indoor presentations will be at the Tok Mainstreet Visitor Center. From 1-3 pm, there will be outdoor Family Fun Activities at the adjacent park. Festival activities are aimed at raising the awareness of bird conservation and participation in family outdoor recreation.

Contact: Tetlin Refuge, 907-883-5312.

California

May 9, 2009 - Keeping Our Baylands Wet & Wild

The Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter Wetlands Subcommittee and the Redwood Shores Branch of the Redwood City Public Library are extending an invitation to all government agencies, environmental organizations, community groups and individuals with an interest in wetlands issues to help bring the community together in appreciation of our local baylands while educating the public about the importance of wetlands and how they can get involved. They are inviting individuals and groups to participate in the event by being a guest speaker, hosting a video presentation, hosting an information table, guiding a wetlands walk or talk to small groups, or helping us staff the event.

Redwood Shores Library, Redwood City CA. 10am-5pm

Contact: Mike Kerhin, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter. 510.858.1095; mkerhin@comcast.net

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Stone Lakes NWR

If you'd enjoy a fun, FREE family-oriented day in the country with lively entertainment and up-close and personal views of many wildlife species, mark your calendar and plan to attend Walk on the Wildside on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. near the town of Freeport, California, at the Beach Lake Picnic Area. This fun outdoor celebration of International Migratory Bird Day highlighting local efforts in protecting and restoring native Central Valley habitats and wildlife offers a great opportunity to access normally closed wildlife areas. Be sure to enjoy the special guided tours of restored wetlands, checkout active heron rookeries on the Bufferlands, and spruce-up your garden with a native plant sale hosted by All Things Wild showcasing many local native species that are hard to find!

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes>

Contact: Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; 916-775-4420

Colorado

May 2 - Wetlands and Water Critters

Explore the wetlands and then use microscopes to look at the seldom seen aquatic life in the wetlands pond.

Majestic View Nature Center, Arvada, CO. 10 AM

Contact: Paul McIver, 303-312-6056; mciver.paul@epa.gov

May 14-17 - Ute Mountain Mesa Verde Birding Festival

Spring migrants and early nesters attract birdwatchers from across the nation to the Ute Mountain-Mesa Verde Birding Festival. Keynote Speaker is Bill Schmoker, Bird Photographer and President of Colorado Field Ornithology.

District of Columbia

May 2-3 – Birdfest 2009

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at the National Zoo and join them in welcoming back the millions of migratory birds that spent the winter in Latin America and the Caribbean. A great variety of fun family activities will be held on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Website: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/BirdFest/>

May 3, 10, 17 - Meet the Birds

A walk with a ranger to see the changing of the birds as winter migrators leave and summer ones arrive. Good for all ages. 8:00 am to 9:00 am at the visitor center.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.htm>

Contact: Ian Lothian, 202-426-6905

Florida

May 2-3 - Watershed Tent

The Watershed Tent will include fun and relevant information about our natural environment, coordinated by the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center. Free with \$5 admission to the Ruskin Tomato and Heritage Festival. At E.G. Simmons County Park from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Website: <http://campbayou.blogspot.com/2009/04/fw-press-release-ruskin-tomato-festival.html>

Contact: Dolly Cummings, 813-363-5438, campbayou@yahoo.com

Georgia

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Okefenokee NWR

Join the nation in celebrating and learning about migratory birds. Activities include an early morning bird walk, bird activities for children and adults, exhibits, and a night time Owl Prowl.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee>

Contact: Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 912-496-7836

Illinois

May 16 - International Migratory Bird Day at Upper Mississippi River NWFR - Savanna District

Come and join us in Celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. Schedule for the day: 7:30 - 8:45 Guided Bird Walk; 9:00 Welcome; 9:15 Beginning Bird Identification ;10:45 Trumpeter Swans; 12:00 What in the world is Geocaching? Lunch is available by the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge.

Contact: Pam Steinhaus, 815-273-2732 ext 16.

Indiana

May 1-3 - Ohio Valley Birding Festival

Join us as we learn about and celebrate birds through workshops, lectures, birding hikes and live bird programs. The highlight of the Festival is Family Day on May 2nd. Bring the kids and experience a day of crafts, games and activities involving birds and birding. A live raptor show, bird banding demo and guided hikes will bring you and your family up close and personal with these fascinating creatures!

Website: <http://wesselmannaturesociety.org/events/index.php>

Contact: 812 479-0771 ext. 102.

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Muscatatuck NWR

A "May Day" Bird Count will be conducted by volunteers on Muscatatuck NWR.

Contact: Donna Stanley, 812-522-4352; Muscatatuck@fws.gov

Iowa

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Neal Smith NWR

A celebration of International Migratory Bird Day including a number of activities for families to participate in ranging from bird hikes to creating arts and crafts at our craft station.

Contact: Hallie Rasmussen phone, 515-994-3400; hallie_rasmussen@fws.gov

Louisiana

May 1-31 - Wetlands Walk, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Explore Louisiana's wetlands on a ranger-guided walk on a preserve trail. Watch for alligators, listen for frog calls, admire the wildflowers, and hear about the people who lived and worked in the area. Daily walks take place from 10 am to 11 am and may be cancelled during special events at the preserve or due to staffing. Stop at the Barataria Preserve Visitor Center, 6588 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, to find out where the day's walk will begin.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/jela/index.htm>

Contact: Barataria Preserve Visitor Center, 504-589-2330 ext. 10

Maine

May 15-17 - Wings, Waves & Woods

Enjoy birding by land, by sea and by art at this island festival celebrating spring and its migrators. Accessible by bridge, Deer Isle offers hundreds of acres of preserves filled with warblers in May. Scheduled activities include guided walks, offshore boat trips to see puffins and pelagics, kayaking to view sea ducks and shore birds. The island's lively art community offers exhibits, demos and studio walk-throughs. A local foods chowder supper will be followed by a presentation by Maine Birding Trail founder, Bob Duchesne, on birding by ear.

Website: <http://www.islandheritagetrust.org>

Maryland

May 2, 9, 17 – Guided Bird Walk

Join an experienced birder for a guided birding tour of Blackwater NWR. Meet at Blackwater Visitor Center at 8 a.m. Bring your binoculars and field guides, and dress appropriately.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/blackwater>

Contact: Blackwater NWR Visitor Center, 410-228-2677

May 9, 30 - Wonderful Wetlands, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Freshwater wetlands are home to a variety of fascinating plants and animals. Join a naturalist on a boardwalk tour from 1 – 3 pm to enter the wonderful world of wetlands. For adults and children 5 years and older. Reservations and entrance fees are required for all events.

Website: <http://www.jugbay.org/>

Contact: 410-741-9330; programs@jugbay.org

Massachusetts

May 2, 9, 16 - Walk: Lore of Nauset Marsh, Cape Cod National Seashore

Learn about the rich natural and human history around Nauset Marsh. Learn how each has affected the other through time. Walk goes from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Meet on the terrace at Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm>

Contact: Salt Pond Visitor Center, 508-255-3421

May 3, 10, 17 - Walk: Province Lands Dunes and Bogs, Cape Cod National Seashore

Explore an enchanting dune landscape of unusual plants and wild cranberry bogs. Discover the hidden story of America's oldest public lands, and how actions by enterprising settlers threatened Provincetown and its renowned harbor. Walk goes from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Meet at Province Lands Visitor Center, Provincetown.

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/caco/index.htm>

Contact: Province Lands Visitor Center, 508-487-1256

Minnesota

May 3 - International Migratory Bird Day at Crane Meadows NWR

Join a guided bird tour of Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on Sunday, May 3, 2009 starting at 7:00 a.m. at the Platte River Trail trailhead. Visitors will walk along the newly upgraded trail in search of birds. Co-hosting this event, along with the Friends and staff of Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, will be the members of the Morrison Birding Club. The dedication of the trail and a brunch will be served following the bird tour.

Website: www.fws.gov/midwest/cranemeadows

Contact: Paul Soler, 320-632-1575; paul_soler@fws.gov

May 9 – International Migratory Bird Day at Sherburne NWR

Celebrate the return of millions of migratory birds to their breeding areas by joining a guided bird tour at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, May 9. The "Songbird Search," enjoyed most by intermediate and experienced birders, begins at 7:00 a.m. and runs until 11:30 a.m. "Birds In The Wetlands," which focuses on beginning birders and families, begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends around 10:30 a.m. Both programs begin at the Old School House on County Road 9.

Contact: Nancy Haugen, 763-389-3323 ext. 13; nancy_haugen@fws.gov

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Windom Wetland Management District

Windom WMD is celebrating the eighth annual "Wings on the Prairie" celebration in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day. Activities begin at 6:30 AM with guided bird walks. Other activities for all ages include: wood duck box construction, exploring wetland critters, bingo nature hike, wildlife survival game and Discovery Quest with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Mistnetting with Ross Conover, Bruce the "Bug Guy" program and the premier showing of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp exhibit of MN, Trumpeter Swan release with the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association, MN DNR non-game biologist and the MN Zoo, followed by a Bison Burger lunch hosted by Friends of Windom Wetlands.

Website: <http://midwest.fws.gov/windom>

Contact: Howard A. Paul, 507-831-2220 ext 20

May 14-17 - Birding Festival at Tamarac NWR & Detroit Lakes

Celebrate the spring migration in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota at the 12th annual Festival of Birds! This festival includes bird watching trips to Tamarac, Agassiz, and Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuges. Bird watching trips also take participants into several WPA's of Fergus Falls, Morris and Detroit Lakes Wetland Management Districts. Each trip is guided by several experts in the field. Located in a transition zone of tallgrass prairie, hardwood and deciduous forests, nearly 200 species of birds can be seen. Workshops, exhibitors, and socials complete the weekend birding experience. Renowned photographer & author Richard Crossley is the must-attend keynote on Saturday, May 16.

Mississippi

May 7 - Botanical Stroll through a Wet Pine Savanna

On Thursday, May 7th, between the hours of 2 PM and 3:30 PM the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GNDNERR) is hosting a Botanical Stroll through a Wet Pine Savanna lead by the nationally-renown botanist, Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock. Dr. Mohlenbrock has written over 50 books and authored more than 500 publications on plants and serves as a monthly columnist for the journal, Natural History. Pre-registration is required for this event because only 25 spaces are available. For more information or to pre-register call Jennifer Buchanan at (228) 475-7047 or (228) 860-5634 or e-mail her at jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov.

Contact: Jennifer Buchanan, (228)-860-5634, jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov

Nebraska

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Boyer Chute NWR

Discover and learn about birds and migration through a variety of activities.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/BoyerChute>

Contact: 402-468-4313; boyerchute@fws.gov

New York

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Wertheim NWR

Free event featuring early morning bird walk, morning and afternoon canoe trips, art and photo workshops. Live bird show and a bird mask and comedy mime show for all ages. Family activities under the tent all day include crafts to be made by the kids such as bird house construction, feeders and bird tracks, along with various local conservation group displays. Face painting and games galore. The outings and workshops require registration.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges>

Contact: Deborah Lofredo, 631-286-0485; deborah_lofredo@fws.gov

Oregon

May 1-3 - Wings & Waves Festival

Celebrate Spring Migration on the Central Oregon Coast: \$500 one day bird count contest; Guided Kayak and Birding Tours; Renowned Speakers; Live Raptor Show; Family Hands-On Activities; Live Music; "All Things Birds" Art Exhibit and Sale; Building of world's largest nest; Movie "On the Wing". All for \$25/person daily, or \$30/person for the weekend (children 16 and under admitted free with accompanying adult).

Website: <http://www.lincolncityaudubon.com>

Contact: 541-992-0440; info@lincolncityaudubon.com

May 16 - Birding Festival at Tualatin River NWR

Celebrate Songbird Festival at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Sherwood, Oregon. All ages are invited, rain or shine, for a day of outdoor activities, guided nature walks, hands-on educational crafts for kids, live bird presentations, exhibits, music, food, fun and more. The event and parking are free.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/tualatinriver/>

Contact: Kim Strassburg, 19255 SW Pacific Hwy Sherwood, OR 97140

Pennsylvania

May 1-3 - Third Annual Oil Region Birds & Nature Festival

Designed for birders and nature lovers of all ages and skill levels, this festival features a nature hike on Friday afternoon, an owl prowl on Friday night, guided bird walks on Saturday & Sunday morning, and workshops on Saturday afternoon. "Flock & Mingle" at our reception on Saturday evening, followed by our "Birder's Banquet" with special guest Don Riepe, the Jamaica Bay Guardian.

Contact: Toni, Oil Region Alliance. 814-677-3152 ext 110.

May 8-10 - Festival of the Birds

Experience the beauty and bounty of Presque Isle State Park while birding with local experts. Dr. Gene Wilhelm, our guest speaker, will present "Birdwatching: Past, Present and Future." He is the Volunteer Station Master for the International Hawk Watch Program at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Field trips will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday and workshops at 1:30. Pontoon rides and a moonlight kayak paddle are also scheduled. Programs for children and families will take place on Sunday afternoon at no cost. Pre-registration: \$90/weekend and \$50/day.

Website: <http://www.presqueisleaudubon.org/festival.html>

Contact: Karen Torney, kmt1515@gmail.com or Linda Donati, CDBirdz2@aol.com

Rhode Island

May 9 - International Migratory Bird Day at Ninigret NWR

Join us for a guided bird walk, kayak tour, nature crafts, educational displays, fun scavenger hunts, "make your own trail mix", cool nature films and maybe you will even meet a big blue goose! This celebration showcases how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports migratory birds

Contact: Chuck Bullington, 401-364-9124 extension 44

Utah

May 14-18 - Great Salt Lake Bird Festival

Come celebrate spring migration at the 11th Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival in Farmington, Utah! This festival offers guided field trips to the best birding hot-spots in northern Utah and around the world famous Great Salt Lake. All trips have expert guides. Friday and Saturday programs at the Davis County Event Center include workshops, artists, booths, vendors, and food for people of all ages and birding experience. The annual Dutch oven dinner on Saturday features keynote author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul.

Contact: 801-451-3286.

Virginia

May 3 - Huntley Meadows Park Wetlands Awareness Day

Enjoy an afternoon of wetland interpretation, wildlife presentations and a Fun Fair for kids. Bring your friends and family to celebrate the importance of wetlands to wildlife and you. There is a modest fee for some activities. Noon – 3 pm at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center. Sponsored by FOHMP.

Contact: 703-768-2525.

May 7-9 - Birding Festival at Great Dismal Swamp NWR

Migratory Bird Day Celebration; guided bird walks, refuge tours, photography and birding workshops, family activities.

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp>

Contact: Deloras Freeman, 757-986-3705

May 13 - The Plants of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the Virginia Native Plant Society at 7:30 pm at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 37 for their quarterly membership meeting a talk on the plants of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve by Dr. Elizabeth Wells, a botanist from George Washington University. The meeting is free and all are welcome.

Website: <http://www.fodm.org/default.htm>

May 17 - Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve Walk

Join the Audubon Naturalist Society and FODM, rain or shine, for a walk and learn about conservation issues affecting the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. We hope to see wading birds and migrant songbirds. Meet at 8 am at the entrance to the Haul Road. Leaders: Kurt Gaskill and John Bjerke

Website: <http://www.fodm.org/default.htm>

Wisconsin

May 16 - Birding Festival at Trempealeau NWR

A variety of festival activities are planned...special hikes include: guided bird hikes, prairie walks, a birding canoe tour, and an evening owl prowling. Joining us for special presentations are raptor rehabilitators from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center for two special presentations on the observation deck. A special guest speaker, Preston Thompson, from the Ho-Chunk Nation will share his story behind his name, "Eagle King" and weave together the rich cultural connection to birds and his people. More special guests are still being planned. Some on-going activities include, face painting, an educational exhibit about wingspans, a nature digital

photography station, a nature art exhibit and hands-on activity and much more! Displays, bookstore items and tasty "bird-like" snacks will also be available throughout the day. Don't miss this special day just for the birds!

Website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Trempealeau/>

Contact: Jennifer R. Lilla, 608-539-2311, ext. 16; jennifer_lilla@fws.gov

May 18 - Celebration and Announcement of Statewide Wetland Gems List

Join WWA for the statewide launch of our new Wetland Gems program, including the announcement of the statewide list of Wetland Gems sites. We'll recognize the landowners of Wetland Gem sites from around the state, announce the full slate of Wetland Gem events scheduled around the state this summer and fall, and hear comments by state, regional, and local elected officials including Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk regarding the importance of wetlands to the people of Wisconsin.

Cherokee Marsh. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Website: <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/gemevents.htm>

Contact: WWA to register, 608-250-9971

May 21 – 23 - Celebration of Northeast Region Wetland Gem Sites

Held in conjunction with the Door County Festival of Nature, explore the rich natural history and unparalleled scenic beauty of the Peninsula. The registration includes daytime field trips and evening programs.

Website: <http://www.ridgesanctuary.org/festival.htm>

May 30 - Backwater Riverboat Tour of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

This special two-hour riverboat tour will explore a variety of riverine wetland habitats including open backwaters, side channels that border floodplain forests as well as the main channel. We expect to see a significant variety of migrating and nesting birds since the Mississippi River Flyway is one of the most noteworthy bird migration flyways in the world and these tours occur during peak fall migration for many species of birds. And riverside trees will be approaching peak fall color, so it will be a beautiful morning on the River. Tours will be on board a Coast Guard inspected vessel with a licensed pilot. Tour goes from 10 am – 12 pm and leaves from Prairie du Chien. Registration fees: \$25-Member/ \$32-Non-member/ \$17-12 & Under.

Website: <http://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/fieldtrips09.htm#backwaters>

Contact: 608-250-9971.