

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
ARM Loxahatchee NWR
10216 Lee Road
Boyton Beach, FL 33437 4796
Phone: 561/732 3684
Fax: -

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Serena J. Rinker 561/732-3684

ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Refuge Celebrating International Migratory Bird Day

Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge is partnering with the Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park and the Audubon Society of the Everglades in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 12, 2001. There are four main family activities that the public is invited to attend. These activities include two early morning bird walks at 7:00 and 7:30 AM. Participants should meet at the Marsh Trail. At 8:00 AM in the Chickee Hut there will be a fun, audience participation (“test your skills”) bird calls bingo program. The Palm Beach Zoo staff will present Beaks and Feet, a bird adaptation program at 8:30 AM in the Visitor Center auditorium. This program will be a live bird presentation that discusses what all birds have in common. A live birds of prey presentation will be presented by Tim Brown from the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital at 9:30 AM in the auditorium. To finalize the morning at 11:00 AM in the Chickee Hut, children can participate in two different bird craft activities presented by the Palm Beach Zoo. There will also be the wing span board to test your wing span against four birds. While they last, the refuge will also handout the 2001 International Migratory Bird Day poster featuring Terry Issac’s

drawing of his perception of a shade coffee plantation, some of the bird species that commonly use these plantations, and a natural tropical forest in the background.

Like any day of recognition, International Migratory Bird Day exists to focus attention on a valuable resource - the nearly 350 species of migratory birds that travel between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable, and remarkable wildlife that share our world. Migratory birds are an important economic resource, controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars.

Unfortunately, research has shown that many migratory bird species are in decline, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitats. Thus,

International Migratory Bird Day, in addition to being a day to foster appreciation, is a call to action.

The refuge is on US 441/SR 7, two miles south of the junction of SR 804 (Boynton Beach Blvd) or 3 miles north of junction SR 806 (Atlantic Avenue). The refuge Visitor Center which is open 9:00 AM to 4:00

PM from Wednesday through Friday and from 9 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

There is an entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle or \$1.00 per pedestrian. Seasonal passes are also available.

For more information call the Visitor Center at (561) 734-8303.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The

Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66

national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management offices, and 78 ecological services field stations.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory

bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.