

Migratory Birds and Their Habitat

Duration: 1 - 1 1/2 hours

Students will take the 8-mile loop of wildlife drive to see what bird species are at the refuge. How are birds adapted to their environments? What do we do to affect birds and their habitats? As they stop at various places along the loop, students will also learn about the wildlife management techniques our refuge uses to benefit migrating birds throughout the year (if age appropriate).

Your students will be able to:

- Identify different bird species and behaviors
- Identify and explain bird adaptations
- Define migration, habitat, environment, ecosystem, etc.
- Identify living and non-living factors that positively or negatively affect birds

NJCCC Standards—5.1 A&B, 5.5 A, B, &C, and 5.10 A&B



Forest Ecology: Forsythe's Forest

Duration: 1/2 - 1 hour

Students will hike along our Aker's Woodland Trail while learning about tree identification, forest layers, and ecological succession. Other topics that can be covered include, but are not limited to; soil types, tracks, and animal scat.

Your students will be able to:

- Identify tree and shrub species
- Identify moss, lichen, and fungi species
- Identify plants and animals that live in each forest layer
- Define canopy, understory, forest floor, succession, etc.
- Discuss why forests are important to plants, animals, and humans

NJCCC Standards— 5.1 A&B, 5.5 A&B, and 5.10A&B



Available Equipment:

- Binoculars
- Field guides
- Microscopes
- Dissolved oxygen test kit
- Egg replicas
- Hydrometers
- pH test kits
- Dip nets
- Seines
- Refractometers
- Bait aerators
- Animal skulls
- Scat replicas
- Animal pelts
- Spotting scopes
- Soil samplers
- Thermometers
- Track replicas
- AND MORE...

Don't see what you're looking for? Just ask!

Our other programs include:

- Wetland Habitat Characteristics
- Biomagnification: It All Adds Up
- Wetland Metaphors
- Water Quality Indicators
- Puppets
- AND MORE...



Salt Marsh Ecology: Catch a Class Act

Duration: 1 1/2 - 2 hours

Students will seine along the beach at Turtle Cove to collect and investigate forms of estuarine life. Shallow areas along the shores of Great Bay teem with life awaiting discovery. The opportunities to observe estuarine organism's adaptations are virtually unlimited with a single successful haul of a beach seine.

Your students will be able to:

- Learn how to collect organisms with a seine
- Observe using the specimens collected
- Infer about the adaptations of the specimens collected
- Discuss the differences between fresh, salt, and brackish water

NJCCC Standards—5.1 A&B, 5.5 A&B, and 5.10 A&B



Pond Ecology: Young Limnologists

Duration: 1 1/2 - 2 hours

Students will investigate pond life, and like professional limnologists will publish their findings. Students will use dip nets to catch organisms. They will then use hand lenses, field microscopes, pond viewers, and field guides to identify for identification. Close up inspection of a pond reveals a whole different world!

Your students will be able to:

- Collect water samples from different areas of a pond
- Observe and make notes/sketches of specimens collected
- Classify the specimens collected
- Discuss findings as a class and develop a mini field guide

NJCCC Standards—5.1 A&B, 5.5 A&B, and 5.10 A&B

“Marshes, forests, ponds, and birds, Oh My!”

There’s no better place to teach children about the environment than at Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. With so many different habitats available you couldn’t ask for more. And to top it off, all of our programs are offered to you **FREE OF CHARGE!**

Here at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, we can offer your students the opportunity of learning about their environment outside of your classroom. They will be able to relate a hands-on experience with what they have already learned. Best of all, our programs cover NJ Core Content Curriculum Standards for Science.



The National Science Foundation states that, environmental education has a positive impact not only on achievements in science, but in reading, math, and social studies.

Forsythe is the perfect place to bring your class to open their eyes to nature. We offer programs covering life sciences and environmental studies. Just about anything you would like to teach can be done here—from migratory birds to salt marsh, pond, or forest ecology. All programs can also be adapted to work with any age group.

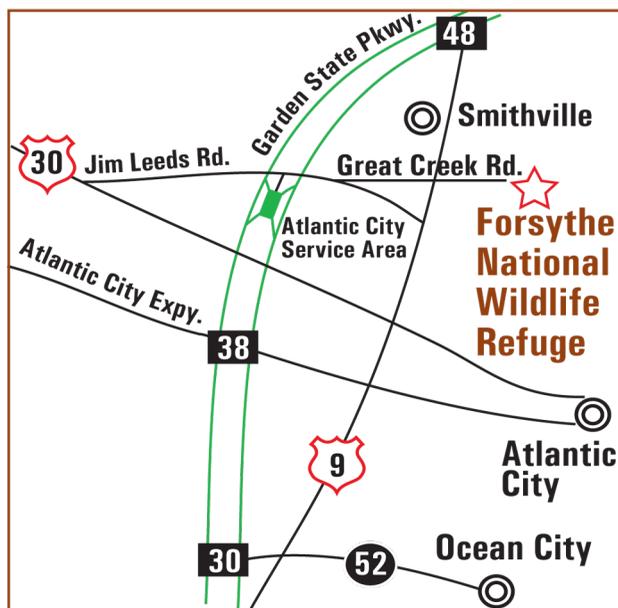
Planning your trip: A typical experience is 3-4 hours long (with time for lunch) which includes a refuge introduction and completion of two to three programs: migratory birds, salt marsh, pond, or forest.

Teachers may select the habitat for the program (pond, marsh, etc.), and the specific content. Specialized sampling equipment may be available upon request.

We welcome teacher input to design a custom-made experience for your classes. The Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge offers the perfect facility and opportunity to conduct your field trip experience in the wild!

Where we are located:

800 East Great Creek Rd.
Oceanville, NJ 08231



For more information or to register for programs contact:

Art Webster, Chief of Visitor Services
609/652 1665
609/748 2731 Fax
Email: arthur_webster@fws.gov

Visit our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge

Environmental Education Field Trips



*Curriculum Based Programs for
Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade*

