

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



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For Immediate Release:

19th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival

Birdwatchers of all skills levels are invited to attend the 19th Annual Oregon Shorebird Festival to be held September 9, 10 and 11, 2005. A full weekend of activities centered around migrating shorebirds is being planned by festival sponsors including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA), The Bird Guide, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Oregon Field Ornithologists, Red Lion Inn, Coos Bay and Cape Arago Audubon Society. The festival is headquartered at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, also a festival sponsor, in Charleston, OR. Day activities include expertly guided field trips to a variety of locations including Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, New River, Coos Bay, and Millicoma Marsh; a pelagic trip to observe seabirds like albatross, fulmar, shearwater and storm-petrel is hosted by The Bird Guide and SEA watches for pelagic birds and marine mammals at Simpson Reef. Evening activities focus on current bird research. The Friday evening program features speaker Rob Suryan, PhD. Candidate at Oregon State University, presenting "Short-tailed Albatrosses in Japan and the North Pacific: a history of this once abundant species, its near extinction and current recovery and research efforts." The Saturday keynote speaker is Mike Denny, a field biologist for the US Forest Service, presenting "Shorebird: Light Weights in a No Wait Game."

Bandon Marsh and Coos Bay are renowned for shorebird watching and each year a few rare birds have delighted festival attendees. The migrating shorebirds you can expect to see include Black-bellied plover, Semi-palmated plover, Pacific golden-plover, Western and Least sandpiper, Dunlin, Whimbrel, Long-billed dowitcher and Wanderling tattler. If you have always wanted to learn more about birds along the Oregon coast or wanted to sharpen your skills in shorebird identification, please join us for a weekend of birding fun and challenges. Registration is required for this event. For more information please visit our website at oregoncoast.fws.gov/shorebirdfestival.htm or contact Dawn Grafe at 541-867-4550.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 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.