

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alligator River/Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge  
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## News Release

May 7, 2007



Photo credit: Melissa McGaw

Interesting in birding?? Saturday, May 12 is the perfect day to bird on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge! Experienced birders will lead a Birding Safari into South Pond to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. South Pond is excellent shorebird habitat that is usually closed to public entry. Meet the group at the Pea Island Visitor Center at 8:00 am.

### **Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge**

On May 12th, 2007, concerned citizens across the globe will celebrate the importance of migratory birds during International Migratory Bird Day. To celebrate the event locally, Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge offers a special Birding Safari into South Pond. The birding event will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, May 12. Participants should meet at the Pea Island Visitor Center, approximately 5 miles south of Oregon Inlet. This year's theme, Birds in a Changing Climate, focuses on the impact of climate change on migratory birds. In eastern North Carolina, rising sea levels have already impacted- and in some cases, reduced- the habitat of many migratory bird species. Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge was identified as one of these imperiled habitats in the report *Refuges at Risk*, published by the Defenders of Wildlife

([www.defenders.org/habitat/refuges/refugesatrisk2006](http://www.defenders.org/habitat/refuges/refugesatrisk2006)). For more information about the effect of climate change on migratory birds, and what you can do to help, visit [www.fws.gov/birds/imbd](http://www.fws.gov/birds/imbd). For this Birding Safari, experienced birders will provide a skilled perspective on our valuable natural resources. South Pond is closed to the public year-round and only open to the public for special events such as walks to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. For more information, please contact Ann Marie Chapman, Wildlife Interpretive Specialist at 252-987-1118 or by e-mail at [AnnMarie\\_Chapman@fws.gov](mailto:AnnMarie_Chapman@fws.gov).