

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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News Release

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Public Invited to Local National Wildlife Refuges for The Big Sit!

This Sunday (14 October), the Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society will be sponsoring two events, one at Alligator River and the other at Pea Island. Both events are part of a national program called The BIG SIT, and there will be 50+ events happening on Sunday across the country.

The objective is to count as many bird species from a 17 foot diameter circle using eyeballs, binoculars and/or spotting scopes. During the Sunday events, there will be birders at both locations (North Pond observation tower at Pea Island and the intersection of Milltail and Sawyer Lakes Roads on Alligator River) from before dawn until after sunset.

While there is some seriousness in this endeavor (and some competition nationally), the event is more of a tailgate party for birders. We will have drinks, snacks, etc. and are hopeful that folks will come to help and have fun.

Bucket Taylor, Director for the Society and coordinator for the Alligator River Big Sit invites public participation. "If you are looking for an outing on what looks like a fantastic weather-day for Sunday, please come join us. Birders of all levels are welcome, but please come with an attitude of having fun. And bring a friend."

Jeff Lewis will be coordinating the Pea Island event. Walk-ins are welcome at both locations during daylight hours. Only pre-registered participants are permitted before daylight and after dark, since both refuges are closed to the public at night.

Taylor added, "We hope to see lots of people on Sunday- with binoculars in tow."

For more information on The Big Sit, visit:

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx>