



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: April 18, 2011

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and Lake Erie Metropark Host Migratory Bird Bash to Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day

SATURDAY, MAY 7 AND SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2011

Grosse Ile, MI- The Lake Erie Marshlands Museum and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (DRIWR) are joining forces for a two-day welcome home party to celebrate the return of our tropical migrant birds. Many of “our” birds, such as the Baltimore Oriole and the Scarlet Tanager, actually spend more time in the tropics than they do here, so it’s good to consider the world picture when thinking about local birds. In other words these aren’t “our” birds at all, but treasured visitors that deserve all the attention they can get.

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is officially celebrated throughout the United States and Canada on the second Saturday in May. IMBD recognizes the movement of nearly 350 species of migratory birds from their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean to nesting habitats in North America.

This year’s event consists of a series of early bird morning walks and lazy bird afternoon walks, speaker presentations, special kids programs held at the DRIWR (Saturday, May 7), and at the Marshlands Museum (Sunday, May 8). This event will be held over two days at two locations, but will have one theme. A vehicle entry pass is required for entry to Lake Erie Metropark.

Sat., May 7, 2011 Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (open 10 am – 5 pm)

- 7 am Early Bird Walk & Tweet Seek - A bird walk for early risers
- 9 am Light Refreshments in the Woods (Shelter)
- 10 am “Following Twitter: Keeping Track of Migrant Birds”- A look at why bird banding is so important
- 11 am Lazy Bird Walk & Tweet Seek - A bird walk for non-early risers
- 12-5pm Refuge property open to visitors

Sun., May 8, 2011 Lake Erie Marshlands Museum (open 10 am – 5 pm) (Refuge Property open 1-5pm)

- 7 am Early Bird Walk & Tweet Seek- A bird walk for early risers
- 1 pm Lazy Bird Walk & Tweet Seek- A bird walk for non-early risers
- 2 pm Programs:
- “Calling All Birds” - bird calls as they relate to habitat
- “Tanagers in Sombreros” - Our familiar birds in unfamiliar places
- 1-5 pm “Home Sweet Tropics” game & displays

A welcome home cake will be available on Sunday, May 9th at the Marshlands Museum at Lake Erie Metropark.

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and western basin of Lake Erie. It stretches from southwest Detroit to the Ohio-Michigan border. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 300 species of birds, including 30 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, and 31 species of shorebirds, and for 117 species of fish.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The mission of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Police Department is to provide safe and secure facilities and recreational opportunities for the citizens we serve. The members of the department are dedicated to providing the highest level of police service to our visitors and staff and are guided by the philosophies of outstanding customer service and community policing.

The International Wildlife Refuge Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the first international wildlife refuge in North America by working through partnerships to protect, conserve, and manage the refuge’s wildlife and habitats, and to create exceptional conservation, recreational, and educational experiences to develop the next generation of conservation stewards.

Getting There:

Detroit River IWR directions:

Parking will be available at the Refuge Gateway at 5437 West Jefferson, Trenton, MI 48183. It is located between the intersections of Vreeland and Van Horn Road on the east side of West Jefferson. Turn in the gate and follow the gravel road to a grass parking area. The property is enclosed by a chain link fence and is directly south of a Solutia plant.

Lake Erie Marshlands Museum:

Lake Erie Metropark is located at 32481 West Jefferson Avenue in Brownstown, MI 48173. Once inside the park, follow signs to the Marshlands Museum (734-379-5020).

For more information, please contact Anna Cook of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (734-692-7672; anna_cook@fws.gov), Joann Van Aken of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance (734-692-7671; iwr_alliance@yahoo.com), or Gerry Wykes of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (734-379-5020, ext. 6836; gerry.wykes@metroparks.com).

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