

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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News Release



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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TEAMS UP WITH LAKE ERIE METROPARK TO HOST FAMILY- FRIENDLY BIRD CELEBRATION

For Immediate Release: May 8, 2012

GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN – The Lake Erie Marshlands Museum and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge are teaming up to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day this Saturday and Sunday, May 12th and 13th.

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is recognized throughout the United States and Canada each year on the second Saturday in May. The event, which highlights the annual journey of nearly 350 species of migrating birds from their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean to nesting habitats in North America.

“Neo-tropical migrants such as the Baltimore Oriole and the Scarlet Tanager actually spend more time in the tropics than they do here, so it’s important to consider the big picture when we think about our seasonal feathered residents,” explains Gerry Wykes, Naturalist and Curator of the Marshlands Museum. “In other words, these aren’t ‘our’ birds at all, but treasured visitors that deserve all the attention they can get.”

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of International Migratory Bird Day. Created in 1993, the event is now hosted at over 500 sites throughout the Western Hemisphere each doing their part to commemorate this exciting event, reaching hundreds of thousands of youth and adults in the process. We invite you to join us and celebrate one of the most significant occasions in the natural world over this fun-filled, two-day special event!

Migratory Bird Bash Schedule of Events:

Saturday, May 12

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge at the Humbug Marsh Unit

7:00am	Earlybird Adventure Hike (a bird walk for early risers)
9:00am	Light Refreshments
10:00am	Program: “Tanagers in Sombreros”
11:00am	Lazybird Adventure Hike (a bird walk for late sleepers)
12:00pm	Program: “Birds-a-Million”
12pm – 4pm	Refuge Open House – Come and Explore

Sunday, May 13

Lake Erie Metropark at the Marshlands Museum (Entrance fee required)

7:00am	Earlybird Walk & Tweet Seek (a bird walk for early risers)
1:00pm	Lazybird Walk & Tweet Seek (a bird walk for late sleepers)
2:00pm	Programs: “From 10 Gauge to 10 Power: The Checkered History of Birding” & “Tanagers in Sombreros”
1pm – 5pm	Program: “From Brazil to Brownstown – Migration is a Hard Thing to Do!”

Family-friendly crafts and activities will be offered Saturday at the Refuge’s Humbug Marsh unit beginning at 9am. Light refreshments will be served mid-morning, provided by the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance. In addition, in recognition of International Migratory Bird Day’s 20th anniversary, a welcome home cake will be available for visitors to enjoy on Sunday, May 13th at the Marshlands Museum at the Lake Erie Metropark.

This year’s theme focuses on bird conservation and 20 ways people may help to preserve birds every day. A beautiful poster, designed by artist Rafael Lopez, highlights this year’s theme, reflecting the joy, curiosity, and beauty of birds, while sharing the importance of community in bird conservation. Free posters featuring this artwork will be available for event participants this weekend at the Refuge and at the Marshlands Museum.

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge incorporates more than 5,700 acres along 48 miles of the lower Detroit River and western Lake Erie. The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting, and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 23 species of raptors, 31 species of shorebirds, over 100 species of fish, and over 300 species of birds. It is one of the few urban refuges in the nation and the first in North America to achieve an international designation. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and riparian waterfront lands. Visit www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver for additional information.

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. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, and dedication and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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 the designated parking area.

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. An entrance fee is required to enter the Metropark property.

For more information, please contact the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge at 734-692-7649 or Detroit_River@fws.gov, or the Marshland Museum at 734-379-5020, ext. 6836 or Gerry.Wykes@metroparks.com.

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