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## **Public Invited to Presentation by Nationally Renowned Raptor Photographer Vic Berardi at Lake Erie Metropark's Marshlands Museum**

BROWSTOWN, MICHIGAN, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance invite the public to a talk on "Raptor Identification in the Digital Age" by nationally renowned raptor photographer Vic Berardi. The presentation will be given at 3:30 PM on Saturday, October 23rd at the Marshlands Museum at Lake Erie Metropark (32481 W. Jefferson, Brownstown, MI 48173). A vehicle entry permit is required (annual - \$25; seniors 62+ - \$15; daily - \$5). Directions are available at: [www.metroparks.com/parks/index\\_all.aspx?ID=7&r=0](http://www.metroparks.com/parks/index_all.aspx?ID=7&r=0).

Southeast Michigan is fortunate to have Vic Berardi visit the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and share his message and passion. "Vic Berardi's talk brings to prominence some of the key factors in the art of hawk watching that directly influence scientific endeavors, such as the monitoring program conducted by the Detroit River Hawk Watch," notes biologist Greg Norwood of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Photographers, birders, and general naturalists will not want to miss this expert's presentation."

The public is also invited to come to the Lake Erie Metropark boat launch during the day and talk with representatives of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the Detroit River Hawk Watch at the Lake Erie Metropark boat launch to learn more about the annual Hawk Watch and receive help in identification and raptor spotting.

The lower Detroit River is one of the best places to watch raptor migrations in North America. Birding enthusiasts have identified 23 species of raptors migrating through the area. During peak migration, hundreds of thousands of raptors have been seen in a single day. Lake Erie Metropark is a key corridor point for migrating raptors (such as hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures), annually averaging over 150,000 Broad-winged Hawks and from 7,000 to 9,000 Sharp-shinned Hawks, as they pass southward around Lake Erie. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance conduct the well recognized Detroit River Hawk Watch that systematically identifies and counts raptors during their fall migration season. The data from Detroit River Hawk Watch are used to track trends and guide management, and are incorporated into a North American hawk migration database.

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.

More information about the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is available at:  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver/](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/DetroitRiver/)

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