

***Patuxent Research Refuge  
National Wildlife Visitor Center***

**10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027**

**301-497-5565 Fax: 301-497-5765 <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/>**

**Patuxent Research Refuge to Reduce Hours at National Wildlife Visitor Center**

The National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland, will reduce its public hours beginning November 20. The visitor center will not be open on Thursdays, however, it will remain open every other day of the week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except federal holidays.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service selected to close the visitor center on Thursdays to have minimal impact on visitors, partners, and school programs. The center has traditionally had fewer visitors on Thursdays.

The refuge and its 25 miles of roads and trails will remain open on Thursdays. Visitors may still explore the refuge every day of the week. Portable toilets will be available outside of the visitor center on Thursdays when the visitor center is closed.

The refuge's plan for reduced hours balances budget realities with the Service's priority of providing the public with a quality visitor experience.

The visitor center opened in 1994 and provides environmental education and other public programming, exhibits, and meeting space for more than 50,000 visitors annually. It also hosts a bookstore operated by the Friends of Patuxent.

The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off of Powder Mill Road, between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197, south of Laurel, Md. Please visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/>

**See updated hours information at**

**[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south\\_tract\\_hours](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract_hours)**