



NEWS RELEASE



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Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates Migratory Birds

The Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge is celebrating International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 10, with free birding tours, songbird banding demonstrations, and an educational presentation featuring live birds.

The day's activities will run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Driving and walking tours will begin and end at the Refuge headquarters, located about six miles south of Toppenish, off Highway 97, at 91 Pumhouse Road. The Raptor House Rehabilitation Center, based out of Yakima, will provide a wildlife education program from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. featuring live birds of prey including owls, hawks and falcons. Restroom facilities will be available on-site.

Families are encouraged to attend the event. No special expertise is required - just a desire to learn about wild birds in the beautiful setting of the Toppenish Refuge. People are encouraged to bring water, snacks, binoculars, field guides, and cameras. Call the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex for more information at (509) 371-1801.

International Migratory Bird Day was established in 1993 to highlight the amazing journeys birds undertake between their summer and winter homes - sometimes thousands of miles each way. The Toppenish Refuge; with its excellent marshlands, wetlands, and riparian forests; provides an important migration stop for large concentrations of birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway. The Refuge also serves as critical nesting habitat for birds like the great blue heron, American avocet, and black-necked stilt; and many species of ducks, owls, and raptors.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, 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, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.