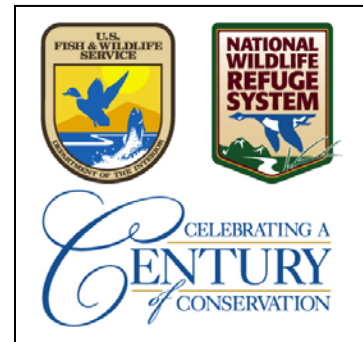


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ORNITHOLOGIST JOINS STAFF OF DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Greg Norwood, a resident of Dearborn and a biology and environmental studies student at University of Michigan-Dearborn, has joined the staff of Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge to work part-time on the Detroit River-Western Lake Erie Indicator Project. Funding for this position comes from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-Great Lakes National Program Office. Greg brings a strong academic background in natural science and ornithology together with 10 years of experience working at the Rouge River Bird Observatory and three years of summer research experience on shorebirds in Alaska.

“We are very fortunate to have someone of Greg’s caliber join our refuge staff,” notes Dr. John Hartig, Refuge Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. “Greg is passionate about reconnecting people to the natural world in southeast Michigan and to providing an exceptional outdoor experience to help develop the next generation of conservationists.”

Greg Norwood will be working with Canadian and U.S. partners to complete the compilation of long-term trend data on at least 46 ecosystem indicators of health of the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie and to prepare a final report by December 2007. This indicator work has been underway for two years and was the focus of the recent, very successful, State of the Strait Conference held in Flat Rock, Michigan on December 5, 2006. Over 40 organizations and 100 people have contributed to this indicator project, and over 300 people attended the State of the Strait Conference.

Congressman John D. Dingell notes that "It’s important for us to continue to evaluate the health of our refuge and how we can best manage it. Greg’s experience at the Rouge River Bird Observatory and in Alaska will help us to more accurately accomplish that and will raise the bar for the next generation of leaders and managers for our natural resources."

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the lower Detroit River and the western basin of Lake Erie. It focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish and 300 species of migratory birds. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/index.html>

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