



United States
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Forest
Service

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News Release

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Nature Stories, Bird Carvings Highlight Anderson Book Release

NELSONVILLE, OH – Nature enthusiasts and bird watchers are invited to attend an Ora Anderson book release and art exhibition event at the Wayne National Forest to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 12th.

Ora Anderson, who passed away in August 2006, was a fine carver of North American birds. He reportedly carved over 1,000 birds during his lifetime, which are collected and treasured by people throughout the United States and other countries. Ora's family and friends have selected several carvings from their personal collections for a one-day viewing at the Wayne National Forest Headquarters' office on May 12th.

The carvings will be displayed at a time when the peak migration of birds is occurring. Many species of birds are now traveling from their wintering grounds to their breeding grounds – sometimes traveling several thousand miles between the two areas. “These carvings are so realistic”, said Mary Reddan, Wayne National Forest Supervisor. “People will be able to get a close-up look at some of the birds that are migrating through the area, and some that stop and nest in the national forest”.

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Ora Anderson was not just a carver; he was a birder, a naturalist, and an author. He has been described as “the Thoreau of the Appalachian woods” for his essays and poems about nature. A compilation of 59 of his essays and poems have just been released in a book entitled, “OUT OF THE WOODS: A Bird Watcher’s Year”. In association with Ohio University Press, the Forest Service will host a one-hour discussion of the new book by those involved in the book.

The agenda for the book release discussion will feature Anderson’s daughters, who will provide some anecdotal stories about their dad. Jean Andrews, author of the book’s foreword, and Deborah Griffith, editor of the book, will describe the intricacies of turning Anderson’s individual essays and poems into a book. Anderson’s book will be on sale the day of this event at the Wayne National Forest Headquarters through the Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association.

Anderson’s bird carvings will be on display from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm on May 12th. The book release discussion will occur from 10:00 am until 11:00 am. The speakers will be available to answer questions after the presentation.

The Wayne National Forest Headquarters is located at 13700 U. S. Highway 33 in Nelsonville, Ohio (between Nelsonville and The Plains). For more information about this event, please contact the Forest Service at (740) 753-0101.