



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



News Release

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge
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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2009

CELEBRATED AT SQUAW CREEK REFUGE

Mound City, Missouri -- Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge celebrates **International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 9, 2009**. A "Refuge Migratory Bird Festival" event will be held starting at 9:00 A.M., and ending by 4:00 P.M. The spring migration is underway with marsh shorebirds, wading birds, woodland birds, ducks, raptors and much more. The adult bald eagles have young eaglets they are caring for in the active nest at the current time. Volunteers and refuge staff members will be available to answer questions and provide information on bird activities. Saturday's scheduled activities will include a 10:30 A.M. program given by Missouri outdoor painting artist, Billyo O'Donnell, and writer Karen Glines at the headquarters. A greet-meet the artist and writer painting demonstration is schedule at 6:30 P.M on Friday, May 8 preceding the Saturday morning May 9 program. Other activities will include bird walks, a shorebird banding demonstration, children's crafts, Migratory Bird Duck Stamp sales, wildlife exhibits, displays and more. The headquarters visitor contact station hours are scheduled from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday. The Missouri Junior Duck Stamp art work will be on display in the headquarters auditorium. Event buttons, pins, posters, magnets and stickers will also be available for participants. All programs and activities are **free** to the public. Refuge trails and the auto tour route are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

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(2)

International Migratory Bird Day 2009 is an annual event scheduled the second Saturday in May that focuses attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird, its journey between summer and winter homes. International Migratory Bird Day was created to encourage individuals, interest groups and birders, to take action to help conserve birds and their habitats. The International Migratory Bird Day event is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, educational programs and activities. It is the hallmark event of Partners in Flight, an international coalition created in 1990 that includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other Federal and State wildlife agencies, conservation groups, academic institutions, corporations, and private citizens dedicated to reversing declines in migratory bird populations.

Squaw Creek Refuge is located 5 miles south of Mound City and 30 miles north of St. Joseph, Missouri. Visitors can reach the refuge by traveling north from St. Joseph taking Interstate 29 (I-29) to exit 79, then 2-1/2 miles south on highway 159 to the refuge headquarters.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 550 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our website at, <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/squawcreek>.

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Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge International Migratory Bird Day 2009 Migratory Bird Festival

Celebrate the Migratory Bird Festival on Saturday, May 9, 2009

Schedule Events Meet At Refuge Headquarters:

9:00 A.M.

Shorebird Viewing /Banding

Join the refuge biologist in viewing and banding shorebirds or “peeps” found on marsh mudflats. Participants will need to bring boots and binoculars.

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Headquarters Office Open House

Volunteers will staff the office desk providing information on bird migration and selling gift shop sales items. Refuge exhibits can be viewed including the special traveling Missouri Junior Duck Stamp artwork. Duck Stamps will be for sale. Revenue from the Duck Stamp sales is used to purchase refuges and wetlands for migratory birds.

Burroughs Audubon Society from Kansas City will staff a booth with hands on wildlife artifacts for children. Students can color cut-outs to be made into their own colorful bird mobile.

10:30 A.M.

Painting Missouri

Sit in on a presentation given by Billyo O’Donnell and Karen Glines showcasing their book “Painting Missouri” that illustrates their work as artist and writer capturing the Show-Me State.

1:00 P.M.

Birding Hike

Hike and observe woodland birds, warblers, marsh wading birds and more in the unique habitats of the refuge with a refuge volunteer. Participants should bring a bird ID book and binoculars.

1:30 P.M.

Bird Crafts

Young and old can participate in arts and crafts migratory bird activities. Participants can make bird buttons, color birds in their habitat and apply tattoos. Posters and other related International Bird Day items will be available as giveaways.

2:30 P.M.

Auto Tour Bird Watch

Join refuge staff members on a tour of the 10 - mile auto route viewing bird activities in the managed open marsh pools on the refuge. Participants should bring a bird ID book and binoculars.

*Note: Greet-meet painting demonstration held with the artist 6:30 P.M. Friday afternoon. Participants may bring their own painting supplies to join in on the evening painting session. Contact Squaw Creek Refuge office at (660)442-3187 for additional information on programs.