

Celebrate Wildlife Day Podcast, March 2, 2009

(white breasted nuthatch sound)

Ranger Patrick:
Hey Look.

Ranger Lori:
Ooh, a white breasted nuthatch!

Ranger Patrick:
Neat! Welcome everybody to a Grand Canyon podcast. I'm Ranger Pat and I'm here with Ranger Lori to learn all about a very special Grand Canyon event coming up on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the South Rim.

Ranger Lori:
I'm here to spread the word about Celebrate Wildlife Day. Each year at Grand Canyon a whole day is set aside to celebrate the wonders of wildlife and work of wildlife biologists. Grand Canyon is pretty well known for its geologic splendor. It's also an amazing biologic wonder. This park is one of the most biologically diverse in the entire National Park System.

Ranger Patrick:
Wow, that's cool. I heard that Grand Canyon has over 1700 plant species and quite a diversity of animals from 1000 lb elk to the teenie weeniest lizards. The park is teeming with wildlife. So what is involved with this day?

Ranger Lori:
We have morning bird walks; talks on mountain lions, condors and reptiles. There will be face painting for kids and grown ups and workshops on tracks and scat and how to use telemetry equipment. There will be book sales and signings and Adobe Mt Wildlife Center is bringing live animals like hawks and Gila monsters for educational programs.

(red tailed hawk sound)

Ranger Patrick:
Wow, will there be displays and exhibits on wildlife?

Ranger Lori:
Yes! All day at the Shrine of Ages and a special guest speaker at night, wildlife biologist Robert Mesta will be talking about California condors.

Ranger Patrick:
Great, hey...I noticed you have a friend here with you, who is this?

Ranger Lori:

Oh, this is my new pal, KiKi, it's a Kaibab Tassel eared squirrel. She's found only on the North Rim and came over just for this interview and to visit its pal the Abert's Tassel eared squirrel, found here on the South Rim. The Kaibab is a subspecies of the Abert and evolved unique to the North Rim, perhaps during the last ice age.

Ranger Patrick:

I noticed the dark belly and white tail unlike the light colored belly on the Abert squirrels over here.

(squirrel sound)

Ranger Patrick:

Well it's always nice to have a squirrel around. Celebrate Wildlife Day sounds cool, where do I learn more?

Ranger Lori:

Visit Grand Canyon's website at, grab a pen, www.nps.gov/grca and look under special events. You'll find information all about Wildlife Day and a schedule of the programs and activities. Don't forget, join us this year on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the South Rim at the Shrine of the Ages to celebrate wildlife.

(coyote sound)

Ranger Patrick and Ranger Lori:

This is Ranger Patrick and this is Ranger Lori saying, HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!