



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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Fire Island National Seashore Offers Migratory Bird Programs at William Floyd Estate on May 9 and May 17

Patchogue, New York—In honor of International Migratory Bird Day, Fire Island National Seashore is offering special three- hour ranger- guided tours on Saturday, May 9, and on Sunday, May 17, at 9:00 a.m. at the William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach. “Bird Watching in the Fields and Woods of the William Floyd Estate” provides an opportunity to observe spring migration at one of the park’s best birding spots.

Peak migratory times in the month of May bring thousands of birds through the 613- acre William Floyd Estate. The varied habitats of fields, woods, creeks and salt marsh provide ample feeding and resting areas for these birds, particularly the neotropical migrants such as grosbeaks, warblers and vireos on their way northward. “On this program last spring, we recorded 12 species of warblers, with excellent views of the brilliantly colored Blackburnian Warbler,” stated park naturalist MaryLaura Lamont. “Until the trees fully leaf out, warblers in full breeding plumage are easier to see. They sometimes come close enough to get a good look at their distinctive spring colors.” Lamont, who birds by sound as well as sight, is usually able to located and identify species by their songs before the birds are seen.

Meet in the Floyd Estate parking lot, 245 Park Drive, Mastic Beach, New York 11951. Gate opens at 8:45 a.m. for the free program which starts at 9:00 a.m. Dress for the day’s weather, and bring binoculars and tick repellent. Wear a long- sleeved shirt and long pants, which can be tucked into socks. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Roundtrip walk will be approximately 2.5 miles. Call 631- 399- 2030 for more information.

The William Floyd Estate opens for the summer season on Memorial Day weekend. Beginning May 22, 2009, the “Old Mastic House” will be open for free guided tours on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Special interpretive programs will be offered throughout the year. For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park’s web site at www.nps.gov/fiis. You can learn more about the William Floyd Estate, bird watching and other activities, and the park’s natural and cultural resources.

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