



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Grand Teton National Park Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

Grand Teton National Park will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) with a bird-watching caravan throughout the park on Saturday, May 13, 2006. This free activity begins at 8 a.m. in the Moose Visitor Center and finishes at 4 p.m. by Christian Pond near Jackson Lake Lodge. Anyone interested in birds is welcome to participate and reservations are **not** required.

Join Grand Teton National Park ranger naturalists, Andrew Langford and Pat Best, as they visit birding hotspots within the park to locate, watch, and count, birds as part of the North American Migration Count. Throughout the day, participants will take short walks at various locations. Those attending should wear comfortable shoes and bring a lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and rain gear. Bird field guides, binoculars and/or a spotting scope are also recommended.

The 2006 theme for International Migratory Bird Day is "Boreal Forests: Bird Nursery of the North." The boreal forests of North America stretch across 3,500 miles from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean. These vast northern forests become the birthplace for billions of birds each year, and are critical to the survival of nearly half of all North American bird species. Birds born in the boreal forests return each year after spring migration to breed and rear their young. Most boreal nesting birds spend at least some of the year in the United States, and about 20 percent of birds who visit winter feeders in the United States have spent the summer in boreal forests.

IMBD is observed each year on the second Saturday in May to celebrate and support bird conservation. IMBD is the hallmark outreach event for Partners in Flight, an international conservation program, whose goal is to reverse declining populations of migratory birds by bringing attention to the factors that may contribute to worldwide declines.

In addition to the birds that breed in boreal forests and winter in the U.S., nearly 350 North American migratory bird species travel between their nesting grounds in North America and non-breeding habitats in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and southern United States; this includes such familiar birds as ospreys, peregrine falcons, warblers and thrushes. Each spring, many of these same migratory birds return to northwestern Wyoming and Grand Teton National Park where they find critical food resources and nesting sites during the summer season.

Besides providing enjoyment for bird watchers around the world, migratory birds contribute to local, regional and world economies by controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars. Unfortunately, research indicates that many migratory bird species are in decline and facing increased threats along on their migration routes and within their summer and winter habitats.

For more information on International Migratory Bird Day and the North American Migration Count, please call the Moose Visitor Center at (307) 739-3399.

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