

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 62

Chincoteague Island, VA 23336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sally Bowden, Park Ranger

Date: April 24 2017

Phone: 757-336-6122

23rd ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION

Spring migration is on! White-faced Ibis and Eastern Willets have been spotted as they migrate through Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. On Saturday, May 13th help refuge staff and volunteers celebrate the importance of migratory stopover sites with International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD).

"Helping Birds Along the Way" is the conservation theme for this year's IMBD, the only international education program that celebrates the migration of nearly 350 bird species between their nesting habitats in North America and wintering grounds in Latin America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Wildlife Artist Ron Grangier has donated a drawing of a long-tailed duck that will be featured on this year's celebration program flyers, t-shirts and other celebration items. Grangier has been a regular participant and past four time winner of the IMBD art logo contest.

Come out to the refuge on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and enjoy a fun-filled day of activities for all ages. At 8:00 AM, participate in the Assateague Global Big Day Bird Walk with National Park Service staff to identify and count birds on the way to the beach and salt marsh habitats. Advanced registration is required at the Toms Cove Visitor Center. At noon, join us for the Children's Art Contest Award Ceremony in the Herbert H. Bateman Center's auditorium and at 1:00 PM, join staff from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Pocomoke State Park for a live animal presentation in the auditorium. The entrance fee will be waived and all activities are free.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

-END-