

News From The
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

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U.S. Forest Service Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day, May 9, 2009

To celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), White Mountain National Forest biologist, Lesley Rowse, will lead an early morning bird walk on May 9, 2009. The walk will begin at the parking area near Hastings Campground at 7:00 a.m. and all ages and abilities are welcome. The walk will last around two hours. The parking area where the bird walk will start is located at the junction of Highway 113 and the Wild River Road. Please be aware you **cannot** get to the parking area from the southside of HWY 113 as it is still gated. To find this site, take Route 2 to Gilead, Maine. From Gilead, follow Highway 113 south to the road junction with the Wild River Road (just beyond the swinging bridge over the Wild River).

Each spring millions of migratory birds return to the United States and Canada to breed and raise their young. A variety of birds including several species of warblers and thrush return each year to breed on the White Mountain National Forest .

The theme for IMBD 2009 is “Celebrate Birds in Culuture” which explores the role birds have played in Native Cultures throughout the Americas. Birds have been important in Tribal life since ancient times. They are found in cave art, weavings, pottery, stories, music, and religious ceremonies. Today, Native People are making important contributions to bird conservation reflecting their culture’s conservation ethic.

The influence of birds in Tribal Culture continues in society today. The lacrosse stick used today was originally designed the Iroquois Confederacy to look like a hummingbird’s tail. Many words we use today have native origins. The long-legged, longnecked Sandhill Crane has long impressed Native People. The word crane is used

today for machines used to raise and lower heavy objects and you might “crane your neck” to see something.

This migratory bird event increases public awareness and involvement in bird conservation. Birds are economically important and a priceless part of America’s natural heritage—and they are critical indicators of environmental health upon which we all depend.

If you have questions regarding this event contact the Androscoggin Ranger Station at 603-466-2713.

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