

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates International Migratory Bird Day

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with bird banding and family activities at three sites in northern Illinois and one in southern Wisconsin on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, 2015. Join us for family-friendly bird fun!

Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am Service biologists will set up mist nets to band birds at the McHenry County Conservation District's Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park, Ringwood, Illinois (Saturday) and Four Seasons Nature Preserve in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (Sunday). Watch a wildlife biologist capture, band, and release birds that are passing through the area on their way north. Kids can explore a simulated mist net (the birds are not real) and practice their banding skills on duck decoys. The National Wildlife Refuge System mascot will be on hand for pictures.

Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Service staff will join Illinois Department of Natural Resource's International Migratory Bird Day festivities at McHenry Dam, McHenry, IL (Saturday) and Volo Bog State Natural Area, Ingleside, IL (Sunday). There will be a lot of bird-based fun, including The Great Migration Challenge, Bird Bingo and JeopBirdy! We will have live banding on Sunday afternoon.

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2012 from the grassroots effort from the Friends of Hackmatack, McHenry County Conservation District, and a variety of conservation partners in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The refuge aims to restore and connect a landscape that includes large blocks of grasslands, wet prairies, and natural stream watercourses.

For more information about Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge go to:
fws.gov/refuge/hackmatack/

For information about the Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge go to:
hackmatacknwr.org.

For information and directions to Lost Valley Visitor Center, go to:
mccdistrict.org/rccms/index.php/lost-valley-visitor-center/

For information and directions to Four Seasons Nature Preserve, go to:
lakegenevawi.com/m/Four_Seasons_Nature_Preserve.aspx

For details about International Migratory Bird Day events sponsored by the Illinois DNR, go to:
http://www.friendsofmorainehillsstatepark.org/news/imbd_2014.html

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.

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