

From Tim Tetzlaff, Director of Conservation and Communications

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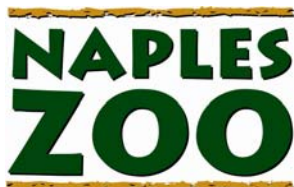
Birds Get a Boost on May 10

Learn How Your Backyard or Business Property Can Help our Feather Friends at International Migratory Bird Day at Naples Zoo

NAPLES, Fla. – Migratory birds flying up from Latin America have typically spent many hours over open ocean making Florida a key refueling stop. Come celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Naples Zoo on Saturday, May 10, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to learn how we can roll out the red carpet for these feathered travelers. The annual celebration of the incredible journeys of migratory birds will be presented by three area National Wildlife Refuges: J.N. "Ding" Darling, Florida Panther, and Ten Thousand Islands. Additional presenters include Everglades National Park, The Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and Collier County Audubon Society. Free materials about the fascinating world of migratory birds including this year's theme of "From Tundra to Tropics" as well as information on birding and great places to bird will be provided while supplies last.

Migratory birds travel long distances between breeding and wintering sites throughout the Western Hemisphere. Although one might expect the effort required for long migratory flights would result in arrival of migrants at their destination near a state of exhaustion, migratory birds are so built for long flights that this is usually not the case. Because of this ability, they will frequently take the most direct routes – even flying over the Gulf of Mexico at its widest point rather than island hop or take land routes. That does mean, however, that birds that have recently arrived from long flights will heartily welcome good resting spots, food, and water. And because some will fly many miles inland before stopping, providing good bird habitat is not just important for people living on the immediate coastline.

In 2008, IMBD will explore the birds that make these fantastic journeys, the habitats on which they depend, and the people who are important to the conservation of birds and their habitats along the way – that's all of us Floridians! At the Zoo, guests will have the opportunity to learn one-on-one with biologists and staff from the National Wildlife Refuges. Children can engage in an interactive migration game with the park rangers and win prizes. While supplies last, the Refuges will also give away this year's International Migratory Bird Day commemorative



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poster and magazines. Guests can also meet representatives from Collier County Audubon Society and ask their birding questions as well as preview their exciting season of new tours.

Zoo guests will learn how to make their yards and green spaces more bird-friendly for the long distance travelers at the National Wildlife Federation certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat. In addition, coffee drinkers can discover the benefits of drinking shade-grown coffee. This traditional type of coffee agriculture maintains forests and bird habitat while also producing a more flavorful coffee bean. Guests can learn more in the Zoo as well as drink shade-grown coffee at the Subway Café at the Zoo and purchase some to try at home in The Zoo Gift Shop. More info at www.napleszoo.org/coffee.

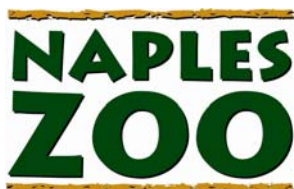
IMBD was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day! In 2007, an estimated 300,000 people participated in IMBD events. Everyone is invited to join in this important celebration.

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. Daily presentations include Alligator Bay Feeding, Meet the Keeper Series, along with two premiere presentations: Planet Predator and Serpents: Fangs & Fiction. Both of these feature shows take place in the Safari Canyon Theater where guests see live animals along with exciting video footage. For those looking for more on the historic botanical garden, the Tropical Plant Trek offers guests a short tour led by University of Florida Master Gardeners. And one of the zoo's most popular activities is the Primate Expedition Cruise where guests embark on a guided cruise through islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes.

The all day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, tours, exhibits, and the boat ride. (\$18.75 adults age 13+ / \$10.50 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age). **Annual memberships and discount tickets are also available online at www.napleszoo.org.** Visitors enjoy healthy meals at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30 and is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.org or call (239) 262-5409.

Print Quality Image of hummingbirds available for immediate download at
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