

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release  
Contact: Chelle Koster Walton  
239-699-4754  
[ChelleTrav@aol.com](mailto:ChelleTrav@aol.com)

Caption: National Bird Day kicks off with a birding bike tour on Wildlife Drive.

### **Refuge celebrates National Bird Day on Jan. 2**

Take a free guided birding bike ride, watch a free film, and take advantage of free bird crafts and Refuge Nature Store specials at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, on Thursday, Jan. 2, in honor of National Bird Day.

The two-hour, four-mile birding bike tour departs from the flagpole in front of the Refuge Visitor & Education Center at 9 a.m. that day to take in Wildlife Drive and Indigo Trail. Bring your own bike. The first 20 to show up for the tour receive a 10 percent discount coupon for the Refuge Nature Store.

From noon to 1 p.m., the education team will be leading take-home crafts in the center. A showing of the 57-minute film *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction* follows at 1:15 p.m..

“Since Wildlife Drive is closed on Friday, which is the true National Bird Day, we are celebrating the day prior,” said conservation educator Sara Hallas. “We hope to draw attention to the growing challenges bird populations face today.”

Below is the full schedule for bird-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

9-11 a.m. – Free guided birding bike tour

12 noon-1 p.m. – Free bird crafts in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

1:15-2:15 p.m. – Free showing of *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction* in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium

For more information about National Bird Day at the refuge, call 239-472-1100 ext. 236 or visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events).

#### ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop profits.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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