

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

***Feather Thief* lecture wraps up ‘Ding’ series**

Widely acclaimed as one of the top nonfiction thrillers of its time, *Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* centers on the outrageous heist of rare bird skins from England’s Tring Museum in 2009. Investigative journalist Kirk Wallace Johnson tells the tale with the intrigue of crime fiction. He will speak about his long-researched book at a special “Ding” Darling lecture on Friday, March 19, at 10 a.m. in the Community House at 2173 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel Island.

The lecture wraps up this season’s “Ding” Darling Lecture Series, which evolved with the times and persisting distance protocols by moving to the larger island venue.

Johnson is also the author of *To Be a Friend is Fatal: The Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind*. His writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post Magazine*, and *Wall Street Journal*. His third book, *The Fishermen and the Dragon: Two Dreams at War off the Texas Coast*, will be published by Viking Press in 2021.

The author will be signing copies of *Feather Thief* following the lecture. The book will be available to purchase that day or in advance from the Refuge Nature Store. Profits from sales benefit conservation efforts at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) hosts the 17th annual lecture series; and Ashton Kirchner Group/Keller Williams Realty Sanibel & Captiva, HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management, Geoffrey & Karen Moss, and Sanibel Carts sponsor Johnson’s lecture.

Seating for the free lecture is limited and available on a first-come basis. About 200 socially distanced seats will be available. Facemasks will be required.

Note: Opinions expressed in guest lectures do not necessarily reflect the views of refuge and DDWS management, staff, and board of directors.

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 or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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