

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption:

‘Ding’ lecturers to discuss effects of climate change on birds

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing bird populations today. It impacts their movement patterns, reproduction, and survival. It's not just about warmer temperatures, however, say researchers Jennifer D. McCabe and Brian J. Olsen. They will discuss how changing winds, sea levels, and the timing of biological events are impacting songbirds in North America and what concrete actions might prevent the loss of species.

Their two free “Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World” presentations take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, March 10, as part of the 2017 “Ding” Darling Lecture Series at J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

McCabe, who trained as a wildlife population and community ecologist, specializes in avian habitat selection and computer modeling. She is a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Department of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology.

Olsen, associate professor at the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology and Climate Change Institute, focuses his research on avian ecology, behavior, demography, mating systems, and life history evolution. The two will be presenting on work they did collaboratively as part of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the free 12-lecture series with support from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). The season’s complete schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all except the one starred (*) lecture.

Seating for the lectures in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium is limited and available on a first-come basis. Arrive one hour early to assure a place to sit. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

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

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.

*March 10 – Researchers Dr. Jennifer McCabe & Dr. Brian Olsen, “Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World”

March 17 – Author-artist Julie Zickefoose, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*

March 24 – Author Denege Patterson, *A Tour of the Islands of Pine Island Sound: A Geological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspective*

March 31 – Author Will Stolzenburg, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat’s Walk Across America*

April 7 – Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*

April 14 – Author Charles Sobczak, *Alligators, Sharks, & Panthers: Deadly Encounters with Florida’s Top Predator — Man*

* indicates no book-signing to follow the lecture

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 proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566, 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com.

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