

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release.

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Caption: Gerrit Vyn's presentation will highlight bird sights and sounds.

### **Cornell collaborator celebrates bird sights, sounds at 'Ding' lecture**

Photographer, cinematographer, and sound recordist Gerrit Vyn travels the world to document the lives of birds for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y. A new book created for the lab's 100-year anniversary, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*, explores man's joyful and complex relationship with birds.

Vyn will illustrate the major themes covered in the book and share many of his powerful images and video recordings from the field during three free presentations at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. on Friday, March 23, as part of the 2018 "Ding" Darling Lecture Series at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

In *The Living Bird*, Vyn's images -- along with thoughtful and inspiring essays by writers including Barbara Kingsolver, Jared Diamond, Scott Weidensaul, and lab director John Fitzpatrick -- take readers on a visual and experiential journey revealing the life-changing role that birds can play in our understanding of the natural world.

Vyn's images appear regularly in books and magazines including *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, *Living Bird*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Natural History*, *National Wildlife*, and *The New York Times*. He was the primary image provider for the 2009 and 2011 State of the Birds reports that were delivered to the Obama administration and congress by a coalition of leading environmental organizations.

Following his presentations, Vyn will be signing copies of *Living Bird*, which is available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, proceeds from which benefit wildlife, research, and education at "Ding" Darling.

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 remaining schedule is listed below. Book signings follow all the starred lectures.

Seating for the lectures in the “Ding” Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one extra seat each with personal items 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](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series).

\*March 23 – Photographer-sound recordist Gerrit Vyn, *The Living Bird: 100 Years of Listening to Nature*

\*March 30 – Artist and author Dawn and Blair Witherington, *Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber*

April 6 – Mote Marine Researcher Dr. Erinn Muller, “Coral Restoration”

April 13 – Avian researcher Dr. Kenneth Meyer, “Swallow-tailed Kites: 10,000 Miles to Survival”

\*starred lecture indicates book signing to follow

#### 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](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4, or [dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dingdarlingsociety@gmail.com).

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