

## World Migratory Bird Day 2010

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[www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)



# World Migratory Bird Day 2010

## - Fact Sheet -

### WMBD BASICS

- Global annual initiative to celebrate migratory birds and to promote their conservation worldwide;
- 80 registered events taking place around the globe on 8 – 9 May 2010 (as of 7 May 2010);
- Taking place for the 5th year consequently with this year's theme "**Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!**"
- Organised by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) – two United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) administered environmental treaties dedicated to the conservation of wildlife; and
- Backed by global NGOs such as *BirdLife International* and *Wetlands International*.

### EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

#### WMBD events have been registered in the following countries:

Over **80 different events** to mark WMBD have been registered in **38 countries** around the world (as of 7 May 2010), in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR (China), India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

Full descriptions and contact details for every registered WMBD event can be found on the [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org) website (see: "WMBD Around the World" section)

Here is a small selection of some of the highlights:

#### **ITALY: WWF Italy for WMBD 2010** (Oasi WWF, 8/9 May 2010)

During the second weekend of May, WWF Italy will be participating at the World Migratory Bird Day 2010 with guided visits to nature reserves. Many of the WWF Italy Oases (more than 100 spread across the country) are located on the main migration routes and offer excellent opportunities for the observation of migratory birds. This year's WMBD event coincides with the "Festa delle Oasi". During this yearly event, nature reserves offer free entrance and a whole series of exciting and interesting activities dedicated to nature conservation.

**CANADA: 7th Annual Crane & Sheep Festival** (Town of Faro, 7 – 9 May 2010)

The Town of Faro has planned a 3-day event for the whole family: the yearly migration of Sandhill Cranes over the Tintina Trench is a sight not to be missed!

**ARGENTINA: Fabien Rojizo is going to schools and to the theatre** (Fundación Inalafquen, April – June – on 8/9 May 2010 with special focus on WMBD 2010)

The Red Knot mascot will visit every school in the area handing out information material concerning the issue of ATV on beaches. Moreover, there will be six performances from the Red Knot theatre production "El sueño de Violeta".

**TUNISIA: Celebrating Migratory Birds in Tunisia** (AAO, 8/9 May 2010)

The Association « Les Amis des Oiseaux » (AAO), the BirdLife Partner in Tunisia, has planned a number of events over the period from April to May. On 7/8 May 2010, AAO is organizing a drawing competition for children aged 6 to 14 years at the National Media Library in Ariana. Participants will receive a short interactive lecture on this year's WMBD theme. This will be followed by discussions with the children and a drawing workshop under the guidance of a professional illustrator, the MCO leaders and staff of the National Media Library. On the second day, a field trip to Jebel Touati Nature Reserve in the Governorate of Kairouan (Central Tunisia) is planned. This spot is ideal for birdwatching activities during spring migration.

**HONG KONG SAR (CHINA): IT in Education Teacher Training Workshop** (WWF-HK, 8 May 2010)

WWF-Hong Kong has organised a special training program for primary school teachers. They will be instructed on the use of mobile learning devices at Mai Po Nature Reserve, which is a renowned haven for migratory birds. The participants will need to carry out interactive activities with the courseware in the net book. One of the activities is to count the birds in the bird hide. The training aims to qualify participants on how to understand and differentiate bird species with the information and the video clips within the courseware.

**AUSTRALIA: Festival for World Migratory Bird Day 2010** (Brisbane City Council, 9 May 2010)

The Brisbane City Council in Australia is celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2010 with a free community music festival on 9 May 2010 with the aim to raise awareness on migratory birds in crisis! Up to 40,000 migratory birds visit Brisbane's RAMSAR listed Moreton Bay every year. Some of these birds fly up to 13,000 kilometers from Siberia. The birds use the East Asian-Australasian Flyway that passes through China, Japan and Southeast Asia. The World Migratory Bird Day 2010 festival includes various activities, such as musical performances and educational activities.

**2010 THEME: SAVE MIGRATORY BIRDS IN CRISIS – EVERY SPECIES COUNTS!**

In 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB), World Migratory Bird Day focuses on Globally Threatened Migratory Birds and especially on those 31 migratory bird species, which are classified in IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered.

- IYB is an appreciation of the value of biodiversity for our lives and an invitation to take action to safeguard the variety of life on earth.
- Birds serve as vital indicators of distribution and state of biodiversity and the ecosystems they inhabit
- A staggering 1,227, or 12,4% of the total 9,865 extant bird species in the world are currently classified as globally threatened and 192 of these are considered Critically Endangered.
- An estimated 19% of all known birds are considered to be migratory, of which 11% are Globally Threatened or Near Threatened and 31 are classified as Critically Endangered according to BirdLife International on behalf of the IUCN Red List.

- Some prominent examples of “migratory birds in crisis” being highlighted in the context of this year’s WMBD campaign include the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*), the Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*), the Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), the Waved Albatross (*Phoebastria irrorata*) and the Orange-bellied Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) – all of which are migratory and listed as Critically Endangered. More info is available here: [Critically Endangered Migratory Birds](#)
- Migratory birds rely on several different ecosystems. Some of them migrate up to thousands of kilometers to find suitable areas for breeding or feeding.
- If ecosystems are destroyed and the stopover sites for feeding vanish, it becomes increasingly difficult for exhausted migratory birds to find suitable areas to rest and refuel.
- Birds face a range of mainly human-driven threats, of which agriculture and invasive alien species are the most important. Hunting and trapping, logging, urbanization, pollution and fisheries are also significant threats, with climate change increasingly becoming a factor.
- Sites which are particularly significant for conserving birds across the world have been identified by BirdLife as ‘Important Bird Areas’ (some 10,000 such areas have been identified so far, in nearly 200 countries)
- The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project is the largest international wetland and waterbird conservation initiative ever to take place in the African-Eurasian region with the aim to ensure wetlands for migratory birds. For more info see: [The Wings Over Wetlands \(WOW\) Project](#)

**For more information on migratory birds, the threats they are facing and projects which aim to conserve migratory birds and their habitats, please also visit:**

[The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds \(AEWA\)](#)

[World Migratory Bird Day 2010](#)

[BirdLife International](#)

[BirdLife International: State of the world's birds](#)

[The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)

[The Wings Over Wetlands \(WOW\) Project](#)

**More information regarding IYB 2010 is available here:**

[The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity](#)

[BirdLife International: State of the world's birds on Biodiversity \(1\)](#)

[BirdLife International: State of the world's birds on Biodiversity \(2\)](#)

**For more information & to arrange interviews please contact:**

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