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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Migratory Bird Day Celebration

The Hoosier National Forest Invites You to a Party

Bedford, IN – May 5, 2008. Mist-net for birds, play great games, learn about the many bird species that make Indiana their home, build bird feeders and houses, and win prizes at the sixth annual “Habitats on the Hoosier” an International Migratory Bird Day Celebration sponsored by the Hoosier National Forest on May 17th at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area.

It happens every year, thousands of migratory birds return to the Hoosier National Forest. International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) will explore the birds that make these fantastic journeys to Indiana, the habitats on which they depend, and the people who are important to the conservation of these birds and their habitats along the way. The celebration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with guided bird hikes through the woods and along Lake Monroe. Special presentations will be given by local species experts each hour beginning at 9:30 a.m., while activities booths for children will be open from 11 - 4. The day has been designed so there are activities for all ages.

“Special features of this event include live birds of prey including a bald eagle, a bird-calling contest, and the chance for children to enter our downtown banner competition,” said Cynthia Sandeno, Wildlife Biologist on the Hoosier National Forest. Children will be able to decorate banners and enter them into the competition. Winning banners will be displayed on Main Street in downtown Mitchell, Indiana for a month. “This competition gives us a chance to show-off the work of our local children, while reminding people about the importance of birds, remarked Sandeno.”

Families will have the opportunity to build bird houses, create a variety of bird feeders, identify birds from a birding blind, and learn how to make their backyards more appealing to birds. Special guests include Dr. Jerry Sweeten, Director of Environmental Studies at Manchester College, and Naturalists Extraordinaire Cathy Meyer and Jeff Reigel. These speakers will present workshops throughout the day on topics such as birds and climate change and celebrating urban birds.

This year, Smokey Bear will return to the Hoosier National Forest to kick off our famous bird-calling contest. The event concludes with prizes and awards at 4:30. The event is free, but there is a \$2.50 parking fee at Hardin Ridge (make sure you mention you are with IMBD to get this discount).

Some things to note:

- ❖ If you plan to do a bird hike, remember to bring your binoculars, field guides and drinking water**
- ❖ Lunch can be purchased at the event from Bloomington Boy Scout Troop 136, or bring your own picnic lunch.**

The schedule of events can be found at

www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier/docs/events/Inter_migratory_bird_day.htm. For additional information, contact Cynthia Sandeno, 812.275-5987.

Vicinity Map

