

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
World Series of Birding
May 12, 2018
Special Use Permit - Rules & Regulations

In conjunction with Great Swamp NWR officials, the following rules and regulations are set forth for New Jersey Audubon's World Series of Birding.

A Refuge-issued Special Use Permit is required for access: 1) to areas normally closed to the public, and 2) at times (i.e., night) when the Refuge is closed. World Series of Birding officials will provide Great Swamp NWR staff with a list of all registered team members. **ONLY officially registered World Series of Birding participants will be issued a Special Use Permit.** Special access as described above is prohibited to anyone without a Special Use Permit.

All participants must register with New Jersey Audubon by April 20, 2018. Special Use Permits will be issued by Great Swamp NWR staff starting at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 25, 2018 through 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 3. All permit-related requests or questions should be directed to Lia McLaughlin, at 973-417-9542 or by email to lia_mclaughlin@fws.gov. **Please fax or email permit applications to Lia McLaughlin at: 973-425-0173 (fax) or lia_mclaughlin@fws.gov. If necessary, you may also call to make an appointment. Permits will be issued via fax, email, or they may be picked up at the visitor center between the hours of 10am and 4pm after you are notified that your permit is ready. Please indicate on your submittal how you would like to be notified and how you would like to receive your permit.**

NEW FOR 2018: Participants will be issued temporary codes and combinations to gain access to locked parking areas on the refuge. Each participant, or team, is responsible for ensuring that any gates they open are closed properly after entering or leaving the refuge. Please DO NOT leave gates open or unlocked. Please contact Lia McLaughlin (contact information above) with any questions.

Great Swamp NWR scouting dates and times for the 2018 World Series of Birding are as follows:

- Sunday, May 6 (sunrise to sunset)
- Tues, May 8 (sunrise to sunset)
- Wednesday, May 9 (sunrise to midnight)
- Friday, May 11 (sunrise to midnight)

World Series of Birding:

- Saturday, May 12 (open midnight to sunset)

You may download a map from the WBS website:

http://worldseriesofbirding.org/uploads/WSB_Map_2018.pdf

It shows parking lots that will be open either specifically for WBS-registered participants or for extra hours during scouting and the event.

The Refuge, in collaboration with the Friends of Great Swamp NWR, installed an eBird Trail Tracker in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. Sightings are regularly updated and posted on the Friends website (<http://friendsofgreatswamp.org>). In accordance with revised WSB rules, the kiosk AND the website may be used during the World Series of Birding.

Information on Special Conditions - Special Use Permit

- Access to the Management (i.e. "closed") and Wilderness Areas is by foot travel only.
- All vehicles must be parked in designated Refuge lots.
- Individuals must notify Refuge staff at least 8 hours before each visit into the Management (closed) Area.
- A copy of the Special Use Permit must be prominently displayed on the dash of each vehicle and must be in the possession of each WSB team while on the Refuge. The permit must be presented to Refuge officials upon request.
- Permit holders must obey all Refuge rules and regulations, including the posted speed limit along Pleasant Plains Road.
- All WSB participants are required to submit their observations directly to the Refuge using the Refuge's official bird list by May 31, 2018. A copy of the list will be provided with the permit and may also be downloaded from the Refuge's website:
http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/North_Zone/Great_Swamp_Complex/Great_Swamp/GSBirds.pdf
- Participants must stay out of the fields along Pleasant Plains Road and away from the blinds at the Wildlife Observation Center during daytime hours.
- Permits are not transferrable.
- All other Refuge rules and regulations remain in force.
- Disabled individuals in need of assistance may qualify for special accommodations by making arrangements in advance with Refuge staff.

Important: All participants, including non-competing teams or individuals, must be officially registered for New Jersey Audubon's World Series of Birding by April 20, 2018 or they will not be granted special access to Great Swamp NWR for the WSB. Non-competing teams or individuals may not raise money for any organization other than New Jersey Audubon.

Anyone who disregards or is in violation of any of these rules and regulations automatically disqualifies themselves and their team and may be barred from future access to Great Swamp NWR and/or from participating in the World Series of Birding.