Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
World Series of Birding
May 6, 2017
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.

Deadline for World Series of Birding registration is April 21, 2017. Special Use Permits will be issued by Great Swamp NWR staff starting at 10 a.m., Monday, April 24, 2017 through 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 5 from the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center (32 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920). Permits may be obtained at the visitor center Monday through Friday 10am to 4pm, and may be faxed or emailed upon request to those teams unable to pick them up in person. All permit-related requests or questions should be directed to Jerfelis Pimentel, Administrative Assistant, at 973-417-9548 or by email to jerfelis_pimentel@fws.gov.

Great Swamp NWR scouting dates and times for the 2017 World Series of Birding are as follows:

Tuesday, April 25 (sunrise to sunset)*
Friday, April 28 (sunrise to sunset)*
Wednesday, May 3 (sunrise to sunset)*
Friday, May 5 (sunrise to midnight)

* Because of recent problems with trespassers and vandalism, access to the refuge after sunset is more limited this year. Teams may be allowed access to portions of the refuge between sunset and midnight on the scouting dates listed above with at least 24 hours notice. Please contact Jerfelis Pimentel for additional information and to request access.

World Series of Birding:

Saturday, May 6 (open midnight to sunset)

You may download a map from the WBS website:

http://worldseriesofbirding.org/uploads/Great_Swamp_Map_2017.pdf
It shows parking lots that will be open either specifically for WSB-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://friendsofgreatwamp.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, 2017. 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 21, 2017 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.