

Welcome to Nature Notes! Here you will find articles about specific nature topics, comments about interesting nature books and magazines, information about and from other parks and preserves. Check here often!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) will be held at Magee Marsh on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. While Saturday is the official day, there is plenty to keep birders busy on Friday and Sunday too. The delight of a visit then is the return of the neo-tropical birds, especially the brilliantly colored warblers. Like sparkling gems, the birds' vibrant colors catch the eye as they flit from tree to tree. Many of the birds stop at the southern edge of Lake Erie, rest, eat and perhaps consider their options before flying across the big water to nest in Canada. Because they concentrate in such a small area, they are numerous and fairly easy to see. We make an annual trip and I highly recommend it if you are a birder or if you would like to become a better birder. The boardwalk through the marsh will be crowded with expert and novice birders, so there is no reason to be shy and there is plenty of assistance with bird identification! If driving to Lake Erie is further than you want to go, I recommend Germantown Metro Park for warblers. The woodland trails are full of migrating birds, though they won't be as concentrated as at Magee.



This is a Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*. It is a bird you are almost certain to see at Magee Marsh. The throat on the male is neon orange, so bright that one of my friends calls it a "Cheeto Throat". It is considered a moderately sized warbler, but remember that warblers in general are small! And quick! And they seem to prefer the very tops of trees! The female wears a paler orange.



This is a Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*. It is very widespread and abundant. It can be seen locally as well at Magee Marsh. It is larger than the Blackburnian. I've seen these birds in the woods as well as in thickets and in old fields. And they are singers! Learning the songs of the birds will add to your enjoyment as well as help you find the bird in the bush!