

Impact of climate change on birds

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing bird populations today. It impacts their movement patterns, reproduction, and survival. It's not just about warmer temperatures, however, say researchers Jennifer D. McCabe and Brian J. Olsen. They will discuss how changing winds, sea levels, and the timing of biological events are impacting songbirds in North America and what concrete actions might prevent the loss of species.

Their two free "Migratory Birds in a Climate Changing World" presentations take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, March 10, as part of the 2017 "Ding" Darling Lecture Series at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island.

McCabe, who trained as a wild-life population and community ecologist, specializes in avian habitat selection and computer

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modeling. She is a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology.

Olsen, associate professor at the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology and Climate

Change Institute, focuses his research on avian ecology, behavior, demography, mating systems, and life history evolution. The two will be presenting on work they did collaboratively as part of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine.

HighTower/Thomas & Swartz Wealth Management sponsors the free 12-lecture series with support from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Seating for the lectures in the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center Auditorium is limited and available on a first-come basis. Early arrivals can save one seat each and then may explore the Visitor & Education Center or Indigo Trail before the lecture starts. Saved seats must be filled 15 minutes before lecture time.

As usual, Wildlife Drive closes on Friday, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the center, Indigo Trail, and recreational opportunities at Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession located at its Tarpon Bay Recreation Area.

For more information, call 239-472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.



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