



MARSH HAPPENINGS

Migration Festival — September 26 & 27

What better way to enjoy the fall migration of thousands of geese and ducks than by visiting Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre during the Annual Migration Festival. Participate in one of the many activities taking place during this amazing natural event. Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre will be at the Centre on both days with wildlife ambassadors. Visitors will get to see live birds of prey up close and learn some interesting facts about them. Learn to identify waterfowl by sight, watch a puppet show, play a migration game, dissect a real owl pellet, and get up close and personal with some of Manitoba's smallest migrants by checking out live songbird banding.



Step on the "pizza scale" to find out how much food you would need to eat in order to migrate. Experience thousands of feeding waterfowl by foot, canoe, or horse-drawn wagon. Stay for the evening and enjoy a four-course dinner on September 27th. At sunset watch the geese return to the marsh for the night from the rooftop observation deck. Stay for a special showing of *Winged Migration* in the theatre following the evening fly-in of ducks and geese.

Migration Concert — October 18

Experience a memorable musical event as we say our goodbye to the geese for the season. The audience will be treated to the music of a string quartet featuring members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Wine and cheese will be served during intermission, where you can bid on fabulous silent auction items. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00 for members of the Interpretive Centre or \$30.00 for non-members. All proceeds support the Interpretive Centre's wetland education and programming. Reservations are required. Call the Centre to reserve your seat today!



What else migrates?

Migration is the seasonal movement of an animal from one area to another. Animals migrate in order to breed, grow, search for food and to escape cold weather. Most people are familiar with birds migrating to their wintering grounds. Here are some other creatures including mammals, insects, and fish that make spectacular migrations each year:

- Little brown bats travel hundreds of kilometres to over-wintering sites such as buildings, caves, and abandoned mines.
- The porcupine caribou herd is the largest mass migration of any Arctic mammal. It moves between its calving grounds and its wintering grounds.
- The record for the longest migration of any mammal goes to the humpback whale. It migrates from Antarctica and over-winters as far as Costa Rica, a distance of 8,300 km.
- Monarchs travel distances as great as 4,960 km from Canada to Mexico, traveling roughly 80 km per day at speeds up to 19 km per hour.
- Every year, thousands of dragonflies are seen moving south to the southern United States. Some may even fly across the Gulf of Mexico. Common Green Darners and Variegated Meadowhawks are two such dragonflies.
- Salmon hatch in small freshwater streams and then migrate hundreds of kilometres to the ocean to mature. After two to six years they return to the same stream where they hatched to spawn and die.

MARSHY QUIZ

- Which of the following animals migrate?
 - Lobster
 - Eel
 - Dragonfly
 - Toad
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- Manitoba lies within which of these flyways?
 - Pacific Flyway
 - Central Flyway
 - Mississippi Flyway
 - Atlantic Flyway
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- True or False? The North Star and the constellations around it are used for navigation by



many nocturnal migratory birds.

- Which of the following are hazards or risks to migratory birds?
 - Windows on homes and office buildings
 - TV and radio towers
 - Telephone and hydro wires
 - Predation by house cats and natural predators
 - Loss of breeding habitat, wintering grounds and stop over areas
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- Although considered a genius, Aristotle mistakenly believed that birds _____ during the winter months.

- How many of the world's birds are migratory?

- 1/4
- 1/3
- 1/2
- 3/4



- Which of the following groups does NOT include a species that migrates?

- Birds
- Insects
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Mammals
- All of the above
- None of the above

Answers:
 4. f
 5. hibernated
 6. b
 7. g
 8. true

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For More Information

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Hours of Operation

September & October
 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 November to August
 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Call ahead for Café hours.

Extended hours during the fall.

The Interpretive Centre is open beyond its public hours for group bookings and meetings.

ASK THE NATURALIST

When should I stop feeding the songbirds so they will migrate?

If you choose to feed songbirds, you can feed them all year long. Birds can always find enough food and do not become solely dependant on a single feeder. Having feeders up all year will

not prevent birds from migrating in the fall. The urge to migrate is very strong and the feeders will help them refuel before the next leg of their journey. Start winter feeding in early November and then continue all winter until late spring. You can even start in early fall to attract migrants.



MIGRATION DINNERS

Come and experience the sights and sounds of thousands of ducks and geese flying to the safety of the marsh at dusk. Enjoy an elegant four-course dinner at the Centre's Café followed by a slideshow and sunset rooftop migration presentation. Call the Centre for reservations.

Dates: Migration dinners are served at 6 p.m. on:

- Friday, September 18 (Members night)
- Saturday, September 19
- Friday, September 25
- Sunday, September 27
- Wednesday, September 30
- Saturday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 6
- Thursday, October 8

Menu:

1st course - Autumn carrot soup and mini bread loaves

2nd course - Cranberry feta salad

Main course - Prime rib and Yorkshire pudding, mashed potatoes with gravy, yellow and green beans and carrots

Dessert - Pumpkin cranberry custard pie

Beverage - One non-alcoholic drink

*Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

Cost:

Members: adults \$25.95, children (under 12) \$12.95

Non-members: adults \$30.95, children (under 12) \$14.95

Taxes are not included.

