

[From Winter 2002]

Waterfowl Week a Success

Chilly temperatures did not deter visitors from flocking to Waterfowl Week. The CNWR hosted approximately 26,000 visitors during the nine-day event from November 23 through December 1.

During the four days the refuge service road was open to private vehicles, November 28 to December 1, approximately 2,000 vehicles made the journey to the northern part of the refuge, to observe waterfowl, wading birds, and horses. During the entire nine days of Waterfowl Week, Wildlife Loop was open to vehicular traffic from 9:00 am to dusk. A large flock of snow geese attracted the most attention on this trail.

A number of people also took advantage of the variety of guided programs. Bird and Marsh Walks, Lighthouse Strolls and Woodland Wanders were offered to visitors who wanted to further explore the island's rich natural and cultural history.

"We are pleased to share the marvels of migration through this special event," stated Refuge Manager John Schroer. "This event emphasizes one of the refuge's main missions - providing habitat for migrating birds."

Since every season has its own showcase of bird life, Schroer reminds everyone that CNWR is open year-round. So you don't have to wait for next year's celebration to come and enjoy the beauty and wildlife of Assateague Island.

Jill Van Scoyoc
Outdoor Recreation Planner