



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Quezon Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City

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OCT 11 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : All DENR Regional Executive Directors

FROM : Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and concurrent OIC Director

SUBJECT : OBSERVANCE OF THE WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY ON 14 OCTOBER 2023

This season signifies the yearly bird migration in the Philippines, during which we anticipate an influx of birds from the northern hemisphere starting in September (southward migration). These birds are seeking refuge from the harsh winter conditions and will seek shelter and sustenance in wetlands and forests across the country. They will then embark on their journey back to their breeding grounds by March (northward migration).

To coincide with the bird migration season, the Department is set to participate in the global observance of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) on October 14, 2023. WMBD is endorsed by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) with the primary objective of raising awareness about the challenges faced by migratory birds on a global scale and working towards the conservation and protection of these species.

The theme for this year's World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), "Water: Nurturing Bird Life," sheds light on the crucial role of water and its associated environments, such as lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, swamps, marshes, and coastal wetlands, in sustaining migratory bird populations. These natural settings serve as essential breeding grounds, resting areas, refueling stops during migration, and wintering havens for these avian travelers. Nevertheless, the growing human need for water, coupled with the impacts of climate change, pollution, and various other factors, poses a significant threat to these invaluable aquatic ecosystems.

The Regional Offices are enjoined to participate in the observance of WMBD on the 14th of October 2023 through activities such as conducting seminars, talks,



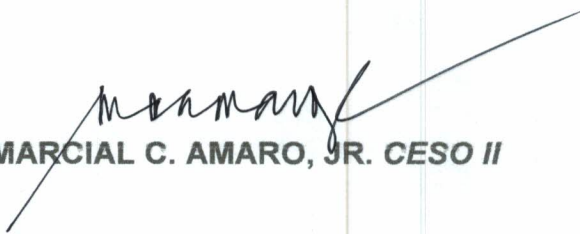
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2021-2030

exhibits, hanging of posters, etc. that would increase the awareness of the public about the importance of migratory birds.

More information and downloadable materials on the World Migratory Bird Day 2023, can be accessed through the website <https://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/2023/>.

Furthermore, we kindly request the Region to distribute the enclosed Public Advisory to inform the public about the upcoming bird migration season and to encourage their active participation in safeguarding these migratory birds.

For information and consideration.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR. CESO II



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PUBLIC ADVISORY

The public is hereby informed of the annual bird migration season in the Philippines whereby influx of migratory birds is expected to commence around September (southward migration) and return to their breeding grounds by March in the following year (northward migration). These birds stop briefly along wetlands – swamps, marshes, intertidal and coastal areas, rivers, ponds, lakes, as well as forests throughout the country, to rest and refuel for their onward journey.

We call on the public to help protect these birds. Hunting of wildlife including birds is illegal, and is punishable under the provisions of Republic Act 9147, or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”.

Certain migratory birds, such as wild ducks, gulls, and shorebirds are susceptible to avian influenza virus (avian flu). The public is therefore further advised not to handle any wild dead bird/s that may be found near wetlands.

If you have knowledge of anyone who has harmed or engaged in illegal activities against these birds, or encountered any incidences of dead birds, please inform the nearest DENR Field Office, local government unit and/or Police Officer in your area. Information can also be sent to the Biodiversity Management Bureau through Telefax No. (02) 8925-8946 or by email at wrd@bmb.gov.ph.

Let us keep the Philippines a safe haven for migratory birds and all other wildlife. Thank you for your cooperation.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR. CESO II

Assistant Secretary for International Affairs

and concurrent OIC Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau



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