

News Release

National Conservation Training Center

698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Phone: 304-876-7276, Fax: 304-876-7270, Website: <http://nctc.fws.gov>



For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

Mark Madison 304-876-7276

“Birding Israel: Where Migration is Defined” Talk at NCTC Tuesday September 24, 2019 at 7:00pm

On Tuesday September 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., ornithologist Jonathan Meyrav will give a presentation on “Birding Israel—Where Migration is Defined” in the Byrd Auditorium, Front Entry Building, at the National Conservation Training Center, 698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Israel is well known as one of the best places in the world to witness and truly experience bird migration. Millions of migrants from hundreds of species pass through Israel twice a year, making it one of the world's busiest and most impressive flyways. Meyrav presents the amazing birds of Israel and the conservation, education and tourism projects that have helped sustain them.

Meyrav has traveled the world extensively, from remote places like the African grasslands to the Amazon jungles and the frozen Canadian tundra. To date, he has seen more than 3,000 birds across 40 countries. He has intimate knowledge of southern Israel's birds. Today, Meyrav is the most experienced birding tour leader in Israel, with sharp identification skills and a keen interest in desert birds, migration and vagrancy patterns. Meyrav spends the migration seasons where the birds do, in Eilat in the spring and Northern Israel in the fall and winter. Since 2010, Meyrav has been the Tourism Director of Israeli Ornithological Center (IOC). He still spends around 100 days a year guiding foreign birdwatchers, donors and birding tour groups. In recent years, Meyrav and his team have developed several large-scale international events; the Hula and Eilat Birding Festivals and several seminars around bird conservation. Today Meyrav devotes much of his time to the “The Champions of the Flyway” project. COTF is an international bird race that takes place in Eilat, Israel every spring. The project raises funds and awareness to protect migrants along the Flyways. Since 2014 Champions of the Flyway has raised close to \$500K for bird conservation, specifically projects tackling the illegal killing of birds on migration.

The talk is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. It is part of *The Conservation Lecture Series* held at the National Conservation Training Center. For more information please contact Mark Madison at (304) 876-7276 or mark_madison@fws.gov or visit nctc.fws.gov/history/publiclectures.html. The Conservation Lecture Series is co-sponsored by The Friends of the NCTC (<http://www.friendsofnctc.org>) and this talk is co-sponsored by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

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