



Immediate Release

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New Exhibit Soars **At Plimoth Plantation** **FlightPath: Plymouth Beach**

Plymouth, MA, Plimoth Plantation – May 3, 2008 – Plimoth Plantation announces ***Flight Path: Plymouth Beach***, a stunning NEW multimedia-exhibit on display at Plimoth Plantation. The exhibit, which opened to the public on Saturday May 3, 2008, features more than 80 striking images taken at Plymouth Beach, by nature photographer Jim Fenton. Each photograph in the exhibit provides a close-up of coastal water-bird life at Plymouth Beach and is accompanied by a season of supporting programs including: expert-guided birding adventures, lectures by leading authorities, bird-banding programs, as well as specialty films offered on the subject of birds, migration and the environment.

“Since long before the 17th century, Plymouth Beach has been a part of a gorgeous, panoramic vista that today can be seen clearly from Plimoth Plantation’s 1627 English Village,” said John McDonagh, Plimoth Plantation’s Executive Director. With help from nature-photographer, Jim Fenton’s very important work, Plimoth Plantation is thrilled to be presenting ***FlightPath: Plimoth Beach***. Whether a full-fledged birdwatcher, or just a casual admirer of birds, museum guests will discover the beauty of breeding cycles and migration patterns of coastal shore-birds, while uncovering how this local ecosystem is more than a beach, but actually an international environmental treasure.”

FlightPath: Plimoth Beach takes an in-depth view of this essential, local environmental treasure and its important inhabitants. In addition, to the threatened and endangered species that nest on this barrier coast, more than 20,000 birds use Plymouth Beach as a stopover to feed and re-fuel on their migratory journeys. Although museum visitors appreciate the breath-taking views from Plimoth Plantation, few guests realize

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that this stunningly beautiful shoreline plays a crucial, ecological role in a complex and ancient system of shorebird migration routes running from the tip of South America to the Arctic tundra.



Wampanoag Homesite



Mayflower II



1627 English Village

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Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

“Historically, people knew that birds provided signals of seasonal and environmental changes. Similarly, scientists today look to birds as a crucial environmental indicator; monitoring the behavior of birds to provide vital information about current ecological conditions,” said Kathleen Curtin, Associate Director of Public Programs. “Plimoth Plantation takes pride in presenting our visitors from around the world with powerful, personal experiences with history, as it relates to today. We know today’s museum-goers are interested in learning more about their environment and preserving it for future generations. It is our hope that ***FlightPath: Plymouth Beach*** will inspire our visitors to recognize and protect the beauty and importance not only of Plymouth Beach, but also equally important ecological locations around the globe.”

Did you know?

May 10, 2008 is International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). IMBD, was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. From 1995 to 2006, the program was under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of its consistent growth, IMBD is now the premier education project of Environment for the Americas. IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day!

About Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation is a bicultural, 17th-century living history museum located an hour south of Boston in Plymouth, (Exit 4, Route 3 south) and 20 minutes north of Cape Cod. The museum is open daily from 9 am, to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 22 through the end of November. Plimoth Plantation is a private, non-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships, function sales and revenue from our varied dining programs/services/special events and museum shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Federal Institute of Museums and Library Services, The National Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, corporations, and local businesses. For more information visit: www.plimoth.org.

The Goldenrod Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation. Its mission is to conserve and protect coastal habitat in Southeastern Massachusetts. The foundation supports stewardship practices, policy and programs that are critical to the survival of coastal shorebirds.