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birds thrive. Each year, more than 800 species of birds make their way south for the winter and then return home to their breeding grounds the following spring. Their ability to survive these long journeys depends on stopover habitat. Unfortunately, some of the areas where birds once stopped and rested on their great migrations have been lost to development. So we're working to protect these species by restoring or replacing their stopover habitats.

One key way we're doing this is by expanding our national wildlife refuges, creating new ones, and restoring and improving hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat for migratory birds. At the same time, we're bringing together Federal, State, and tribal agencies to work with private groups and corporations to improve habitat on private lands. The Department of the Interior is also working with cities across our Nation to build stopover habitats in urban areas. And this weekend, I'm announcing new policies, including new efforts with Mexico, to foster greater habitat conservation for the migratory birds.

America's national parks also play a vital role in our conservation efforts. Earlier this week, Laura spoke at the first-ever leadership summit of the National Park Foundation. She discussed the National Parks Centennial Initiative, a public-private partnership to raise funds for the Park System's 100th anniversary in 2016. This initiative will support many vital projects to improve habitats for local wildlife, including some that will directly benefit birds.

As Americans, we've been given a beautiful country to live in, and we have an obligation to be good stewards of the environment. With the cooperative conservation policies we have put in place, we show our commitment to preserving our Nation's heritage. By making responsible choices today, we will ensure that our children and grandchildren will enjoy a cleaner and more vibrant environment.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on October 19 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 20. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 13

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Bentonville, AR, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer, Caroline Worley. He then traveled to Rogers, AR, where he toured Stribling Packaging, Inc.

Later in the morning, at the Whole Hog Cafe, the President had lunch with business and civic leaders.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Memphis, TN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Chi Zhang. Then, at a private residence, he attended a Lamar Alexander for Senate and Tennessee Victory reception. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

October 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President met with Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Nambaryn Enkhbayar of Mongolia to the White House on October 22.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy to the White House on December 11.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy to the White House on February 4, 2008.

October 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allan I. Mendelowitz to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors: Joaquin F. Blaya; Edward E. Kaufman; Susan M. McCue; Dennis M. Mulhaupt; and Steven J. Simmons.

The President announced his intention to designate Paul A. Schneider as Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

October 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had breakfast with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Nicolas Sarkozy of France to Washington, DC, on November 6–7.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 16

Gus P. Coldebella,
of Massachusetts, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, vice Philip J. Perry, resigned.

Simon Charles Gros,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Roger Shane Karr, resigned.

Deborah K. Jones,
of New Mexico, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Patrick Francis Kennedy,
of Illinois, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), vice Henrietta Holsman Fore.

Joseph J. Murin,
of Pennsylvania, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, vice Robert M. Couch, resigned.

Brian Stacy Miller,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, vice George Howard, Jr., deceased.

Withdrawn October 16

Andrew R. Cochran,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, vice Nikki Rush Tinsley, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on July 31, 2007.

Submitted October 18

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2008 (reappointment).

Joaquin F. Blaya,
of Florida, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2011 (reappointment).

Edward E. Kaufman,
of Delaware, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2009 (reappointment).