

**Contact:** Katherine Miller, (877) 958-2600  
KatherineMiller@SylvanDellPublishing.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Increase Your Bird I.Q. on International Migratory Bird Day**

**Mt. Pleasant, S.C.** (April 26, 2007) – International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), will be held internationally this Saturday, May 12 and provides an exciting opportunity to learn about migratory birds.

IMBD is scheduled annually in order to celebrate bird migration, and the program has grown dramatically since its inception in 1993. This year, adults who are interested in sharing information about these unique birds with children should consider reading the picture books *“If You Were a Parrot”* by Vermont author Katherine Rawson and *“Loon Chase”* by Maryland author Jean Heilprin Diehl.

Both *“Parrot”* and *“Loon”* are published by Sylvan Dell Publishing and are listed as “Good Reads” in the IMBD Catalog of Education Materials. Because Sylvan Dell is a young company on a serious mission to teach science and math through literature, these picture books have been vetted for scientific accuracy by educators at the National Aviary and the Maine Audubon respectively and are part of the Accelerated Reader program.

Rawson’s *“Parrot”* lets children explore a day in the life of a parrot. Readers will join four parrots and their young, multicultural owners as they morph into four-toed parrots and climb around the house, chewing wooden spoons and eating popsicles—sticks and all—with hooked parrot beaks. Illustrated by California artist Sherry Rogers, the picture book is a finalist for *ForeWord Magazine’s* ‘07 Book of the Year Award and has been reviewed by *School Library Journal* and *Kirkus Reviews*.

Diehl’s *“Loon”* describes a young boy, his mother and their dog, Miles, as they take a peaceful canoe ride—until the boy and his mother find themselves frantically racing to rescue a loon family from Miles! Illustrated by Maryland artist Kathryn Freeman, *“Loon”* was nominated for the ‘06 NAIBA Picture Book of the Year Award and has been reviewed by *School Library Journal* and *The Washington Post*. Diehl and Freeman donate a portion of their royalties to the Loon preservation Committee.

Like all Sylvan Dell books, *“Parrot”* and *“Loon”* contain a “For Creative Minds” educational section. *“Parrot’s”* section includes parrot fun facts, tips for taking care of a pet parrot and a “Make-a-Beak” craft while *“Loon’s”* includes teaching trivia, crafts and games related to loons, their migration patterns and efforts to protect this species. The publisher also includes extra “Teaching Activities” and child-friendly “Learning Links” on its website, [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com), to help parents and teachers expand the learning possibilities.

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Sylvan Dell is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Readers can ask for "*If You Were a Parrot*," "*Loon Chase*" and other Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information, please visit [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600. Anyone interested in receiving more information about International Migratory Bird Day should visit the organization's website, [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

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