



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Join the 110th Christmas Bird Count in a Showcase of Wildlife, Recreation on Public Land

Everglades stormwater treatment areas are renowned bird-watching havens



(Click on picture for larger version.)

[109th Christmas Bird Count Photo Gallery](#)

WHAT: Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) are the water-cleaning workhorses of Everglades restoration. They have also become renowned havens for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts alike. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is joining with the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society as the group conducts its portion of the 110th Christmas Bird Count in Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 5 in Hendry County. This is the Hendry-Glades Audubon's third year conducting the count at STA-5.

The data collected during the annual counts — which span North America and beyond — are critical to studies of the long-term health and status of bird populations. Such data is used to protect birds and identify

environmental issues with implications for people as well, according to Audubon. The STAs, managed by the SFWMD, also provide the public with a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, biking and excellent bird watching.

During the 109th Christmas Bird Count, Audubon teams in STA-5 and the surrounding area documented 112 species and more than 92,600 birds. District staff and bird experts from Audubon will be available for media interviews during the 110th count.

The South Florida Water Management District is committed to increasing recreational access to public lands while continuing to manage them effectively to meet environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. For more information on recreational opportunities, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

WHEN: Saturday, January 2, 2010

TIME: 7 a.m.

WHERE: The gate at STA-5 is located on Blumberg Road in Hendry County, 12 miles south of the intersection of Blumberg and County Road 835. Blumberg Road ends at the gate after 10 miles of asphalt and 2 miles of dirt.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.