



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

MEDIA ADVISORY

March 23, 2012

CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

Big "O" Birding Festival Allows Visitors to Explore Florida's Natural Beauty

Birders and photographers are invited to register for the event



More than 300 species of birds can be found around Lake Okeechobee, including roseate spoonbills.

(Click on the picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: Join the search for the 200th bird species at Everglades Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5) during this year's Big "O" Birding Festival. The annual festival is one of the largest bird-themed events in South Florida.

The Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, which partners with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to offer bird-watching events, will lead tours at the renowned STA-5 during the extravaganza. The festival features activities from bird watching to photography to tours of Lake Okeechobee.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 27, through Saturday, March 31

STA-5 Bird Tour Highlights

March 28	Sunrise photo shoot from 5 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. with nature photographer John J. Lopinot at STA-5
March 29	Birding trip to STA-5 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 30	Birding trip to STA-5 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Trips originate from the Port LaBelle Inn, with scheduled meeting times in City of Clewiston.	

TIME: Hours vary, but the program of activities generally begins by sunrise and ends at sunset. For a complete schedule, visit www.bigobirdingfestival.com.

WHERE: Registration is at the Port LaBelle Inn
1563 Oxbow Drive
LaBelle, FL 33935

RSVP: Registration forms are available at www.bigobirdingfestival.com/registration.html.

#

About the South Florida Water Management District

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.