



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

February 11, 2014

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Document Feathered Friends at the 2014 Great Backyard Bird Count
Everglades water treatment wetlands are popular bird-watching spots



(Photo provided by Ken Corregan/Hendry-Glades Audubon Society. Click on the picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: Join the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society and avian enthusiasts across the nation for the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

Each year, “citizen scientists” submit checklists to help researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y., and the National Audubon Society study and protect birds. Florida has ranked first among participating states in reporting the most birds.

While anyone can join the count from their own backyard or nearby park, the SFWMD and the Hendry-Glades Audubon will lead birders and photographers on three separate days to Everglades Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (STA-5) in Hendry County that is nationally known as a bird-watching spot. STAs are the water-cleaning workhorses of

Everglades restoration. They have also become renowned havens for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

During the 2013 count, birders and photographers at STA-5 reported 98 bird species with more than 40,000 individual birds. Highlights included black-bellied and fulvous whistling ducks, snail kites, a solitary cinnamon teal, wading birds and tree swallows.

Throughout the year, the District provides a variety of recreational opportunities on public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. At present, the District has opened 620,000 acres to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, campsites and hiking trails.

For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation. Also visit, [The Great Backyard Bird Count](#).

WHEN: February 15-17, 2014

TIME: 8:30 a.m. each day. RSVP to Audubon sponsor is requested.

WHERE: [Click here for a map and written directions.](#)

EVENT

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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.