



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

March 23, 2012

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[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

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## **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 200<sup>th</sup> 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

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

**TIME:** Hours vary, but the program of activities generally begins by sunrise and ends at sunset. For a complete schedule, visit [www.bigobirdingfestival.com](http://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](http://www.bigobirdingfestival.com/registration.html).

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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.*