



**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**August 20, 2004**

Contact

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## **BIRD-WATCHING TRIPS SCHEDULED FOR TWO STORMWATER TREATMENT AREAS**

*First trips begin Aug. 28 at STA-1 West and STA-5*

Through a partnership with the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and three local Audubon Society chapters, the South Florida Water Management District will offer to the public escorted birding trips at Stormwater Treatment Areas 1 West in central Palm Beach County (near Wellington) and STA-5 in eastern Hendry County (south of Clewiston). The first trips are scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Subsequent trips are scheduled regularly through April 2005. *(The schedule is listed below.)*

The Refuge and the Audubon Society of the Everglades are helping coordinate the trips for STA-1W. The Tropical Audubon Society and Broward County Audubon are helping coordinate the trips for STA-5. They will provide knowledgeable birders, when available. District staff will be on-site to accompany each trip.

The stormwater treatment areas, owned and operated by the South Florida Water Management District, are vast, constructed wetlands that use vegetation to naturally cleanse excess nutrients from water before it enters the Everglades. These remote, shallow-water marshes attract many species of nesting wading birds, migratory and other water fowl such as great blue herons, wood storks, snowy egrets, great egrets and roseate spoonbills.

The trips allow for public access to these specific STAs for birding opportunities on the dates scheduled. There is no minimum age for the trips. If you must cancel, please let the Refuge or Tropical Audubon Society know so someone else can have your spot, as space is limited.

Participants must register in advance to reserve a space on the trips.

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To sign up for the **STA-1 West Birding Trips – West of Wellington in central Palm Beach County**: Call the Refuge visitor center at (561) 734-8303. Please leave your complete mailing or email address – along with the date you want to go and the number in your party – to receive directions or for notification if the trip is canceled.

To sign up for the **STA-5 Birding Trips – South of Clewiston in southeastern Hendry County**: Send an e-mail to [tas007@tropicalaudubon.org](mailto:tas007@tropicalaudubon.org) with your complete mailing or email address – along with the date you want to go and the number in your party – to receive directions or for notification if the trip is canceled. You may also leave the required information by calling (305) 388-1544.

### **Schedule for Stormwater Treatment Area Birding Trips** *(subject to change)*

#### **2004**

Aug. 28, STA-1W  
Aug. 28, STA-5  
Sept. 18, STA-5  
Sept. 18, STA-1W  
Oct. 16, STA- 5  
Oct. 23, STA-1W  
Nov. 6, STA-5  
Nov. 20, STA-1W  
Dec. 12, STA-5  
Dec. 18, STA-1W

#### **2005**

Jan. 9, STA-5  
Jan. 29, STA-1W  
Feb. 5, STA-1W  
Feb. 6, STA-5  
Feb. 19, STA-1W  
Feb. 12, STA-5  
March 12, STA-1W  
March 12, STA-5  
March 19, STA-1W  
March 19, STA-5  
April 9, STA-1W  
April 9, STA-5  
April 16, STA-1W  
April 16, STA-5

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

*Stormwater Treatment Areas locator map is available at the District's web site at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)*

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*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.*