



**US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Wood stork birding spectacle at South Farm

KROTZ SPRINGS – A Wood Stork Birding Event will be held July 23 and 24 at the South Farm of the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area Complex. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries invite the public to view the spectacle.

Often more than 1000 wood storks, along with numerous other wading and shore birds, can be viewed in this area as they are drawn to feed in the South Farm's water management units. The wood stork is the only stork native to North America. These large wading birds, 2-4 feet tall with 66-inch wingspan, can be an indicator of wetland conditions due to their foraging requirements.

The South Farm includes a number of large, moist soil impoundments. These are flooded in the fall to provide habitat for water birds with emphasis on waterfowl. The impoundments are drained in mid-summer to enhance growth of wetland plants the following year. The management strategy during the summer drawdown is to provide mud flats and very shallow water with concentrated prey for birds like shorebirds (sandpipers) and wading birds (egrets, herons, spoonbills, storks, ibises and wood storks).

Wildlife managers say this is a great opportunity for bird watchers, photographers and anyone who enjoys wildlife to see quite possibly the largest concentration of these birds anywhere. Often, alligators, white-tailed deer and many other species of birds may be observed as well. Professionals will be on hand to discuss the wood stork, management of the area, and identification of animals.

The event begins at 7 a.m. and will last until noon both Saturday and Sunday. Driving directions to South Farm: take I-10 to the Ramah exit (exit 135). Go north and take the first road to the left, turn right by the market on Mimms Street, cross the bridge and turn right on the lower Atchafalaya Levee road. This is a gravel road. Go approximately 1.5
(more)

miles or until you see the “South Farm” sign cross over the levee and enter the parking lot. Individuals will be there to give additional directions. For more information, call the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Office, 337-585-0853.

Links

<http://www.fws.gov/angered/i/b/sab5z.html>

Recreation in New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/index.asp>