



Big "Birding" Birding

Rare, Wild and Free

Experience Florida Birding, Wildlife Viewing
and Nature at its Finest



World-Class

Birding, Wildlife Viewing, and Nature Like You've Never Experienced

Whether you are just starting your birding journey, are looking to spot some of the rarest species to complete your checklist, or are simply exploring a natural oasis, Hendry County is a true nature lover's paradise. With widely varied environments, including rivers, lakes, sloughs, marshes, cypress, wet prairies, pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, swamps, wetlands, and pasture habitats, the county promises a wealth of up close and personal encounters with some of the state's hardest to spot birds, wildlife, and plants.

An escape into natural Florida and the Everglades, wildlife surrounds you at every turn in Hendry County – from farm fields, pastures, and canopied rural roads, to Lake Okeechobee, the second largest lake in the contiguous United States. With untouched beauty as far as the eye can see, you can fly through your most wanted species list at some of the most widely renowned birding locations.

Explore the top five destinations for birding and wildlife viewing, as well as eight additional locations and tours you won't want to miss, all included within this guide.



Great Florida Birding
and Wildlife Trail



Florida National
Scenic Trail



Entrance
Fee

STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA 5/6



A man-made wetland designed to aid in Everglades restoration, the Stormwater Treatment Area 5/6 (STA-5/6) rests on approximately 17,000 acres in eastern Hendry County. This South Florida Water Management property has become one of the premier bird-watching areas in the state through an enduring partnership with the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society, which offers limited, seasonal escorted driving tours of the area by reservation. More than 200 bird species have been confirmed during these excursions! In addition, a portion of the Florida National Scenic Trail runs along the L-3 levee on the west side of the STA. Shell-rocked parking, an informational kiosk, picnic shelter, restrooms and over 20 miles of trails on unpaved levee roads including a covered shade shelter and a boardwalk are all open to the public throughout the 10-square-mile area.

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Snail Kite, Gray-Headed Swamphen, Roseate Spoonbill, Purple Gallinule, Swallow-Tailed Kite, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, shorebirds, waterfowl, alligators, feral hogs, rabbits, raccoons, turtles, fish, butterflies, wildflowers, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Location: From Clewiston – at Highway 27/CR 835 intersection go south 26.7 miles on CR 835; turn left onto Deer Fence Canal Rd; go east 2 miles to parking lot. From the South/West – go to the intersection of CR833/CR 835. Travel north on CR 835 towards Clewiston 3 miles, turn right onto Deer Fence Canal Road, located on the first sharp curve; go 2 miles to parking lot.

Time of Year: Open Friday through Monday year-round for non-motorized hiking or bicycling in the public access area except for designated Sundays in fall and winter for the waterfowl hunts managed by the FWC. Driving tours are limited to seasonal trips by reservation. Seasonal Friday van trips with Clewiston Museum Historical Eco Trips are by reservation (\$25).

For more information, visit hendrygladesaudubon.org or contact sta5birding@embarqmail.com or (863) 517-0202.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE SCENIC TRAIL

LEVEE PARK CLEWISTON



The Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail – also known as LOST – is a designated segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail, which circles the lake where it draws its name from. The trail sits atop the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding the lake, offering an unbeatable vantage point to view everything from the scenic lake to agricultural landscapes, as well as unique wildlife. Particularly in fall and winter, birds such as herons, egrets and a variety of wintering waterfowl are abundant. In addition to bird-watching opportunities, cast a fishing line to explore what lives beneath the lake's waters.

Note that sections of the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail are closed while the Army Corps of Engineers conducts Herbert Hoover Dike maintenance and rehabilitation. Please see the Army Corps of Engineers' website (www.usace.army.mil) for the latest updates on the project.

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Over 150 species reported including Brown Pelican, egrets, gulls, terns, waterfowl, swallows, and Gray-Headed Swamphen, alligators, turtles, fish, butterflies, wildflowers, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Location: 709 Hoover Dike Road, Clewiston, FL 33440

Time of Year: Open year-round.

For more information, contact the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce at (863) 983-7979.

OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH STATE FOREST AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



The Okaloacoochee Slough (pronounced "ahk-hol-wak-oo-chee") State Forest and Wildlife Management Area in Hendry County, locally referred to as OK Slough, offers more than 35,000 acres of natural habitats for endangered Florida species, including, the Florida panther, Bald Eagle, Roseate Spoonbill and the Crested Caracara. Its diverse environments include slough, marsh, cypress, wet prairie, pine flatwoods, oak hammocks, and oak-palm hammocks. Along the drive on the designated roads in the forest, there are a number of recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, non-motorized biking and hiking on 39 miles of trails.

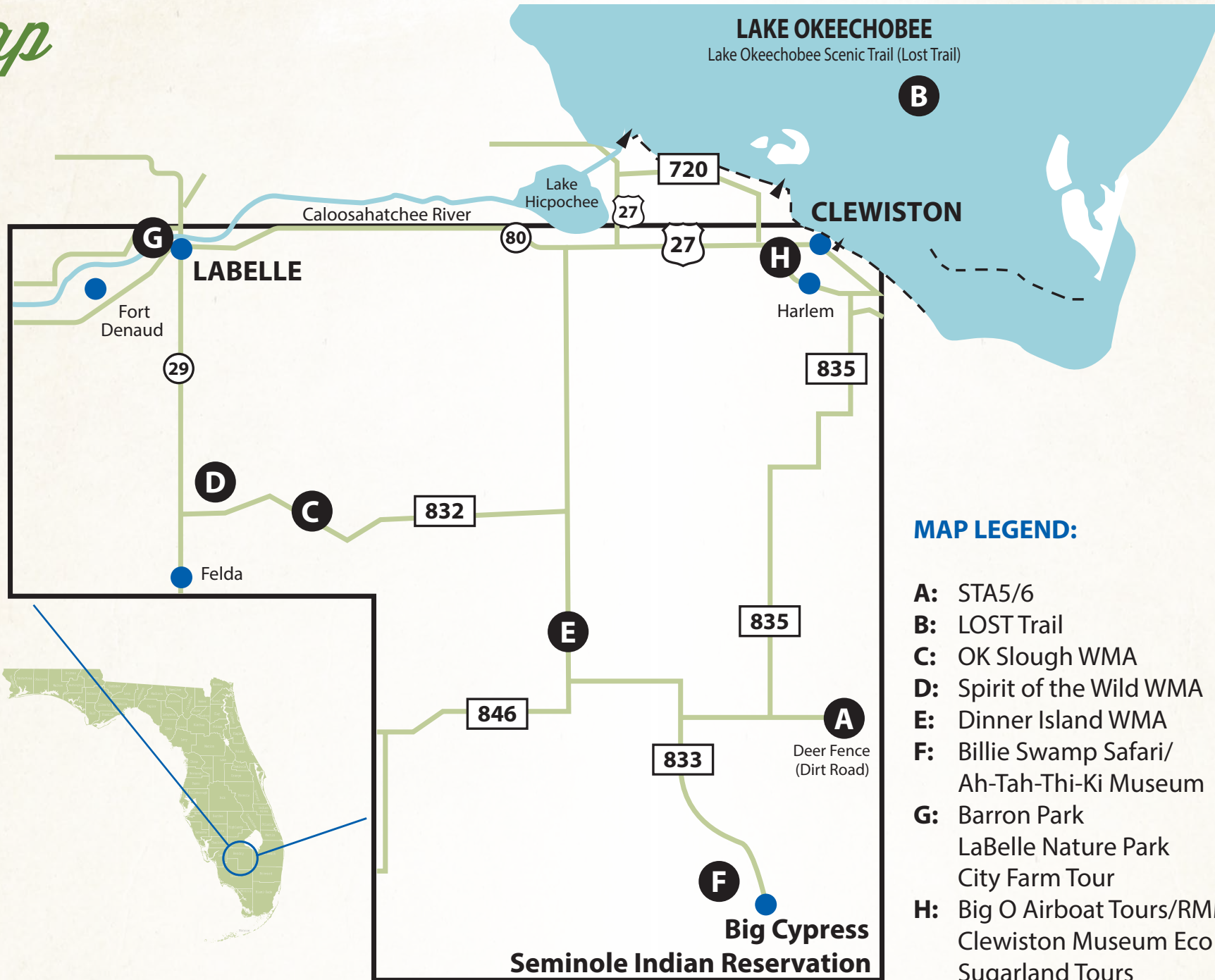
Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Sandhill Crane, Bachman's Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Crested Caracara, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Snail Kite, Swallow-Tailed Kite, turkey, Wood Stork, alligators, turtles, fish, white-tailed deer, squirrels, bromeliads, ferns, butterflies, wildflowers, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Location: 6265 CR 832, Felda, FL 33930

Time of Year: Open year-round.

For more information, contact (863) 612-0776 or visit
[www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Okaloacoochee-Slough-State-Forest)
[Our-Forests/State-Forests/Okaloacoochee-Slough-State-Forest](http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Okaloacoochee-Slough-State-Forest)

Map



MAP LEGEND:

- A:** STA5/6
- B:** LOST Trail
- C:** OK Slough WMA
- D:** Spirit of the Wild WMA
- E:** Dinner Island WMA
- F:** Billie Swamp Safari/
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
- G:** Barron Park
LaBelle Nature Park
City Farm Tour
- H:** Big O Airboat Tours/RMM
Clewiston Museum Eco Tours
Sugarland Tours

Bird Checklist

Waterfowl

- Black-Bellied Whistling-Duck
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck
- White-Faced Whistling-Duck
- Greater White-Fronted Goose
- Canada Goose
- Snow Goose
- Wood Duck
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Mottled Duck
- Blue-Winged Teal
- Cinnamon Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-Winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-Necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Hooded Merganser
- Red-Breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck

Grouse, Quail & Allies

- Northern Bobwhite
- Wild Turkey

Loons & Grebes

- Pied-Billed Grebe

Flamingos

- American Flamingo

Pelicans, Cormorants & Allies

- American White Pelican
- Great Cormorant
- Double-Crested Cormorant
- Anhinga
- Brown Pelican

Hérons, Ibis & Storks

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Great Blue Heron/White Morph
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Green Heron
- Black-Crowned Night-Heron
- Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron
- White Ibis
- Glossy Ibis
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Wood Stork

Vultures, Diurnal Raptors & Falcons

- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Swallow-Tailed Kite
- White-Tailed Kite
- Snail Kite
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-Shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-Shouldered Hawk
- Short-Tailed Hawk
- Swainson's Hawk
- Red-Tailed Hawk
- Crested Caracara
- American Kestrel
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon

Rails, Cranes & Allies

- King Rail
- Sora
- Purple Swamphen
- Purple Gallinule
- Common Moorehen
- American Coot

- Limpkin
- Sandhill Crane
- Grey Headed Swamphen

Shorebirds

- Black-Bellied Plover
- American Golden-Plover
- Semipalmated Plover
- Killdeer
- Black-Necked Stilt
- American Avocet
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Willet
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Marbled Godwit
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Sanderling
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- White-Rumped Sandpiper
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Ruff
- Short-Billed Dowitcher
- Long-Billed Dowitcher
- Wilson's Snipe
- Wilson's Phalarope

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

- Bonaparte's Gull
- Laughing Gull
- Ring-Billed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Lesser Black-Backed Gull
- Greater Black-Backed Gull
- Gull-Billed Tern
- Caspian Tern
- Black Tern
- Forester's Tern

Bird Checklist

continued

- Royal Tern
- Sandwich Tern
- Black Skimmer

Pigeons & Doves

- Rock Pigeon
- Eurasian Collared Dove
- White-Winged Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Common Ground Dove

Cuckoos

- Yellow-Billed Cuckoo
- Smooth-Billed Ani

Owls

- Barn Owl
- Eastern Screech Owl
- Burrowing Owl
- Barred Owl
- Great Horned Owl

Nightjars

- Common Nighthawk

Kingfishers & Allies

- Belted Kingfisher

Woodpeckers

- Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Tyrant Flycatchers

- Eastern Phoebe
- Great-Crested Flycatcher
- Tropical Kingbird
- Cassin's Kingbird
- Western Kingbird
- Eastern Kingbird
- Gray Kingbird
- Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher

Shrikes & Vireos

- Loggerhead Shrike
- White-Eyed Vireo
- Blue-Headed Vireo

Jays & Crows

- Blue Jay
- American Crow

Martins & Swallows

- Northern Rough-Winged Swallow
- Purple Martin
- Tree Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Bank Swallow
- Cliff Swallow
- Cave Swallow

Wrens

- Carolina Wren
- House Wren
- Sedge Wren
- Marsh Wren

Gnatcatchers & Kinglets

- Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

Thrushes

- American Robin

Catbirds, Mockingbirds & Thrashers

- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher

Pipits

- American Pipit

Starlings & Mynas

- European Starling

Waxwings

- Cedar Waxwing

Wood-Warblers

- Yellow Warbler
- Magnolia Warbler
- Black-Throated Blue Warbler
- Yellow-Rumped Warbler

- Yellow-Throated Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Blackpoll Warbler
- Black & White Warbler
- American Redstart
- Ovenbird
- Northern Waterthrush
- Common Yellowthroat
- Northern Parula

Sparrows & Other Emberizids

- Eastern Towhee
- Savannah Sparrow
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- White-Crowned Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow

Cardinal, Grosbeaks & Allies

- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Grosbeak
- Indigo Bunting
- Painted Bunting

Blackbirds

- Bobolink
- Red-Winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Common Grackle
- Boat-Tailed Grackle
- Brown-Headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole

Other

SPIRIT OF THE WILD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



Sprawling over 7,000 acres, Spirit-of-the-Wild WMA is an excellent place to view wildlife year-round. A mix of wetlands and uplands, its location is immediately adjacent to the long, linear wetland known as Okaloacoochee Slough, creating excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. Hike, bicycle or horseback ride along several miles of well-maintained, unpaved roads and you'll pass through a variety of natural communities offering opportunities to observe wildlife, wildflowers, butterflies and much more. In the autumn, wildflower blooms in wetlands and roadside ditches also attract numerous species of butterflies.

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Ibis, herons, egrets, wood storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Florida Sandhill Cranes, Crested Caracaras, Kestrels, Shrikes, numerous species of butterflies, wild turkey and white-tailed deer.

Location: 100 CR 832, Felda, FL 33930

Time of Year: Open year-round.

For more information, contact (386) 902-3349 or visit myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/lead/spirit-of-the-wild



DINNER ISLAND RANCH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)



Southwest of Clewiston in southern Hendry County, Dinner Island Ranch WMA is home to an incredible variety of birds and other types of wildlife on an ever-changing rotation to match seasonal migratory patterns, making for a unique experience with each visit. Drive or walk on a circuit of unpaved roads and don't miss the spectacular southeastern sunflowers that blanket the prairies for two weeks in mid-October each year.

With a rich history as hunting grounds for Calusa Indians up to the seventeenth century, Dinner Island's thirty-four square miles are made up of pastures, sloughs, pine flatwoods and oak hammocks to form a vital link to surrounding wetlands that connect the Caloosahatchee River with the Big Cypress Swamp fifty miles to the south. This connection protects the natural habitats of countless species, including the Florida panther and many other threatened wildlife species.

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Eastern Meadowlark, Crested Caracara, Florida Burrowing Owl, barred owl, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Swallow-Tailed Kite, Wood Stork, alligators, turtles, fish, butterflies, white-tailed deer, feral hogs, squirrel, cattle, wildflowers, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

Location: 7.5 miles south of Keri Road/CR 832 on the west side of CR 83

Time of Year: Open year-round.

For more information, contact (863) 902-3349 or visit myfwc.com/viewing/recreation/wmas/lead/dinner-island/wildlife

Additional

Birding and Wildlife Viewing Locations in Hendry County

BILLI SWAMP SAFARI (S)

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Turkeys, songbirds, herons, egrets, woodpeckers, shorebirds, swallows, Crested Caracara, bromeliads, ferns, wildflowers, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

30000 Gator Tail Tr.
Clewiston, FL 33440

Open year-round
Contact: (863) 983-6101
www.billieswamp.com

BARRON PARK

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Limpkin, swallows, Chimney Swift, egret, herons, doves, songbirds, squirrels, Spanish moss.

De Soto Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935
Open year-round
Contact: (863) 675-2878

LABELLE NATURE PARK AND CAPT. FRANCIS A. HENDRY HOUSE

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Painted Bunting, Chimney Swift, Red-Headed Woodpecker, songbirds, bromeliads, ferns, gopher tortoise.

440 Fraser Ave., LaBelle, FL 33935
Open year-round
Contact: (863) 675-5347 or
westrec@hendryfla.net
www.hendrylabellerecreation.org/
#!labelle-nature-park/zn3x3

AH-TAH-THI-KI

MUSEUM BOARDWALK

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Warblers, vireo, woodpeckers, herons, hawks, turkey vultures, bromeliads, ferns and more.

34725 W. Boundary Rd.
Clewiston, FL 33440
Open year-round
Contact: (877) 902-1113
www.ahtahthiki.com

BIG "O" AIRBOAT TOURS ROLAND AND MARY ANN MARTIN MARINA AND RESORT (S)

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Everglade's Snail Kite, Peregrine Falcon, Roseate Spoonbill, White and Brown Pelican, Swallow-Tailed Kite, and a variety of gulls, terns, shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds, emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation.

920 E. Del Monte Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
Open year-round by reservation
Contact: (863) 885-1518
[www.rolandmartinmarina.com/
boating/lake-okeechobee-
airboat-rides-and-eco-tours](http://www.rolandmartinmarina.com/boating/lake-okeechobee-airboat-rides-and-eco-tours)

**CLEWISTON MUSEUM HISTORICAL
ECO TOURS** 💰

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Snail Kites, Gray-Headed Swamphen, Roseate Spoonbills, White Pelicans, Purple Gallinules, Swallow-Tailed Kites, American Kestrels, Peregrine Falcons, various shorebirds and waterfowl, alligators, wildflowers, and more.

109 Central Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
Open Fridays in October through April, 9:00am-4:30pm, reservations required
Contact: (863) 983-2870
www.clewistonmuseum.org

**HENDRY COUNTY EXTENSION
SERVICE: HENDRY COUNTY CITY
FARM TOUR** 💰

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Crested Caracara, songbirds, warblers, turkey, raptors, alligators, white-tailed deer, wildflowers, and more.

1085 Pratt Blvd.
LaBelle, FL 33935
Open December through March, reservations required
Contact: (863) 674-4092

SUGARLAND TOURS 💰

Birds/Wildlife/Plants: Egrets, herons, gulls, raptors, groves, farms, sugar mill and more.

109 Central Ave.
Clewiston, FL 33440
Open October through March, reservations required
Contact: (863) 983-7979
clewiston.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=105



Discover

The True Nature of Southern Florida

DiscoverHendryCounty.com | 863.983.7979

info@visithendrycounty.com | [f/Hendry-County-Tourism](https://www.facebook.com/Hendry-County-Tourism)

[@DiscoverHendry](https://www.instagram.com/DiscoverHendry)

