

MEDIA RELEASE
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**THREE DAYS OF UNPARALLELED BIRDING
AT THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP BIRDING FESTIVAL**

SUFFOLK, VA: Birders and nature enthusiasts will adore the Fifth Annual Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival, May 12-14, 2011. Despite its dismal moniker, the Great Dismal Swamp is a fascinating ecosystem and home to over 200 species of birds, black bear, bobcats, river otters, insects, reptiles and amphibians. Covering over 112,000 acres of natural wilderness, the Great Dismal Swamp is an ideal spot to glimpse migratory birds. Held annually, the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival includes guided bird walks for experts and beginners, narrated bus tours to Lake Drummond, bird banding demonstrations, owl prowls, workshops, forums and children's activities. Live entertainment by musician Bobby Plough is slated for Saturday, May 14. Workshops include presentations on photographing nature; The Great Dismal Swamp and the Underground Railroad; the Gulf oil spill; and backyard bird watching and feeder care. Guided walks and bus tours require reservations. All events and activities are free and open to the public. Call 757-986-3705 for information and reservations.

The host hotel for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront in downtown Suffolk, offering birders a discounted rate of \$85 per night plus tax. The Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival is sponsored and produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Great Dismal Swamp Coalition and the Suffolk Division of Tourism. Suffolk-Fun.com

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