



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

June 1, 2009

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Dear Florida's Teachers and Students:

On behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), thank you for your enthusiastic support and participation during the state bird voting project. Students from all over the State worked hard campaigning for their candidates. It was very exciting to see the level of enthusiasm for the project. At the end of the day, on November 4, students selected the osprey as their choice for Florida's new state bird.

Continuing the civics lesson, the FWC included the state bird change in its legislative package. As you may know, the State's budget shortfall was the top priority during the 2009 Session. While changing the state bird to one that is more representative of Florida is very important to the FWC, we decided that for 2009 we must focus on balancing the budget. Consequently, in the last few weeks of the Session, we removed the state bird issue from our legislative package. The change from mockingbird to osprey will not occur this year, but it is an issue we hope to submit again in the future.

Please share my thanks with your colleagues and friends. If you have any further questions, e-mail us at Vote4Bird@gmail.com.

Again, thank you for your enthusiastic participation.

Sincerely,

Rodney Barreto
Chairman

rb/jg/kh

cc: Commissioners
Kenneth D. Haddad

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
well-being and the benefit of
people.*

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