



AUDUBON of the WESTERN EVERGLADES

PROGRAMS

2017-2018

Our Programs are presented monthly from November through April at **7:00 pm** at the **Naples Botanical Garden, FGCU's Kapnick Education Center** building, **4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples** (Off US41 take Bayshore Drive South, 1.5 miles down to stop sign at Thomasson, go straight you will see garden on right.)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE) members, non-members, and guests are welcome. There will be a \$10.00 charge for non-members, and donations are graciously accepted.

Remaining Programs for the Season:

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

The Web of Life, Marine Life in the Ten Thousand Islands

Speaker: Dr. Gary Schmelz, Paleontologist and Author

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Bats of Southwest Florida

Speaker: Allyson Webb, Resource Manager Corkscrew's Panther Island

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Ecology of Gopher Tortoises

Speaker: Dr. Phil Allman, PhD, Assoc. Professor of Vertebrate Zoology, FGCU

Each Program will also feature a "**Bite**" about the Environment, Birds, or Places to visit right here in our own back yard along with our *Critter Corner*. It's a new and exciting season so come join the fun!

Visit us online at www.audubonwe.org

NEW! Mailing Address: PO Box 1738~ Naples~ FL~34106 (239)643~7822

Physical Address: 1048 Goodlette Frank Rd. N., Ste 202, Naples, FL 34102

Programs Sponsored by:



Outing Guidelines:

All trips are open to anyone interested in birding, wildlife , exploring our natural areas or anyone who loves the outdoors. Some trips require reservations and some fees may apply. **If you are a Non-Chapter Member each Field Trip will be free of charge but in the hopes that you will join our chapter as a chapter member. To join, go to our website www.audubonwe.org** Please bring binoculars, field guides, water, snacks, insect repellent and sunscreen for all outings. Wear comfortable/quiet walking shoes and a hat, long pants and closed toe shoes recommended. Some trips may require shoes to get wet. No flip-flops on the trips please.

Please arrive promptly at the designated time to receive instructions. Remember to walk and speak quietly during the outings so as not to frighten the wildlife. Some walkie-talkies will be provided, so please make sure they are returned to the trip leader at the end of the trip. Carpooling is suggested for each outing when possible. All trips are subject to rescheduling or cancellation due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Details on possible changes will be posted on our website, www.audubonwe.org: on homepage click on the “Trips” tab and scroll down for trip descriptions or in the monthly newsletter.

Inquiries on any of our outings should be directed to the Audubon Office M-F, 9-3, 239-643-7822, weekends contact for Adult Birding Trips please call Roberta at 239-289-3233.

2018 Adult Bird Outings at a Glance

Descriptions and directions for all outings on the following pages.
Be sure to check our website for any changes to schedule.

- ◇ **Saturday, January 6** – Sugden Park, Naples
- ◇ **Friday - Sunday, January 12-14 - Rookery Bay Nature Festival – Naples**
- ◇ **Saturday, January 27th-** Wakodahatchee & Green Cay, Delray Beach **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

- ◇ **Change of Venue-Saturday, February 10th** - Merritt Pump Station
- ◇ **Wednesday, February 14th– Florida Panther Refuge Swamp Buggy Trip-FULL Waiting List Currently**
- ◇ **Saturday February 17th-** STA-5 Storm Water Treatment Area, Clewiston **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

- ◇ **Saturday, March 3rd** - Pepper Ranch/Lake Trafford, Immokalee
- ◇ **Saturday, March 10th** - Bunche Beach, Ft. Myers
- ◇ **Saturday, March 17th** - Freedom Park, Naples
- ◇ **Tuesday, March 20th** - Colliers Reserve, Naples **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED, Limited to 23 people**
- ◇ **Saturday, March 24th** - Everglades National Park

- ◇ **Saturday, April 7th** - Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk, Eastern Collier County
- ◇ **Saturday, April 14th– Florida Panther Refuge Swamp Buggy Trip-RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- ◇ **Saturday, April 21st** - Naples Lakes Country Club **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
- ◇ **Saturday, April 28th** - Bird Rookery Swamp, Naples



More trips coming soon!



JANUARY 2018



Sugden Park, East Naples

Saturday, January 6th - 7:45am-11:00am

One of Naples best kept secrets for birding. Join us on this wonderful outing where we may see Wood storks, Cooper's hawks, buntings, wading birds, warblers, Eagles and more. 1 mile walk with benches on paved paths and higher grass paths.

Directions: Park is located on US 41 East (Tamiami Trail) at Avalon Dr/Lakewood Blvd. From the city of Naples turn right on Avalon Dr. and go straight into the gate and bare right around the lake. Meet at the back of the park past the bleachers on the lake. Bathroom facilities available at entrance to the park and half way through walk.

SW Florida Festival of Birds, Rookery Bay, Naples

Friday-Sunday, January 12-14th

Southwest Florida Festival of Birds hosted by Rookery Bay National Estuarine research Reserve, featuring a variety of lectures, activities and bird outings to the surrounding areas. Registration is required, trips fill up fast.

Check website, www.rookerybay.org for further details, or call 239-417-6310.

Wakodahatchee Wetlands & Green Cay Wetlands, Delray Beach—REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Reservations required: Call Roberta 775-4160 by Thursday, January 25th

Saturday, January 27th- 7:30am to 1pm Meet at Wakodahatchee at 7:30 am. We are the guests of Tropical Audubon. This is a great place to see nesting birds up close and see how a city cleans its water supply in filter marshes. You may wish to spend the night as it is a 3+hour drive. Intriguing, Morikami Japanese Gardens is very close by as well.

Directions: Take I-75 east to Sawgrass Expressway(869), north to FL Turnpike. Turn, go north to Atlantic Ave West, Delray Beach. Go east on Atlantic Ave. a few blocks to Jogg Rd. Turn left (north) go about 1.5miles. Large brown sign on right past power station. On to Green Cay a short distance away. **Bring food and water.**

FEBRUARY 2018



CHANGE-Merritt Pump Station, Naples

Saturday, February 10th - 7:00 am to noon

Watch the rookery fly out at sunrise. The 55,000 acres that will be restored through the Picayune Strand Restoration Project was originally slated to become South Golden Gate. Now habitat to white pelicans and other wildlife that you have to see to believe.

Directions: Meet at the Publix on the corner of 951 and Pine Ridge Rd. at 7:00am.

Florida Panther Refuge Swamp Buggy Trip- REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Wednesday, February 14th- 8:00am-12:00pm

Trip is limited to 13 participants. Please call the **Audubon Office, (239) 643-7822 to register.**

Join us for a morning swamp buggy trip through the varied habitats of the Refuge, including cypress swamp, pine flat woods and wet prairies. We will learn about panther biology and conservation while traveling through one of Florida's wildest and most beautiful landscapes. The Refuge is home to many imperiled and native species, including the Florida Panther, Black Bear, Wood Stork, Deer, Bobcat, Orchids and Bromeliads. This is not a birding trip although many species of birds can be seen. AWE's Brad Cornell is the Trip Leader.

STA 5 (Storm Water Treatment Area), Clewiston- REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Reservations required by Thursday February 15th

Saturday, February 17th - 6:30 am– 1:30 pm

8 car limit - \$5.00 Donation to Hendry/Glades Audubon

STA 5 is south of Clewiston. Some people make hotel arrangements at the Clewiston Inn and then drive to STA 5. We have counted over 100,000 birds there at some Christmas counts. We drive on the berms, bird next to our vehicles. We eat lunch out on the impoundment so **bring your own food and water.** None available. Hats, sun protection and a scope are useful. Binoculars are necessary. Carpooling required around the impoundments. Signed liability release required.

Directions: Meet at the Cracker Barrel restaurant at I-75 and Collier Blvd, 951. You can also meet us at STA 5 at 7:45 am. If meeting at STA 5 please call Roberta 239-775-4160, by Wednesday, Feb. 15th: no later than 8:00pm. The new entrance is at the microwave tower at Deerfence Road on SR835. It only takes about 1.5 hours from Cracker Barrel.

MARCH 2018



Pepper Ranch/Lake Trafford/ Midney Feeders, Immokalee, FL

Saturday, March 3rd - 6:45 am - 2:00 pm

We will bird along the way to Lake Trafford parking lot, then proceed to Pepper Ranch and Midney bird feeders. Registration forms required. Pepper Ranch is a fabulous acquisition for Conservation Collier. **Bring your lunch** to enjoy while watching painted buntings and other beautiful birds in Midney's backyard. Donations for bird food always appreciated.

Directions: Leave from Super Wal-Mart, Juliet Ave., 2nd entrance to parking lot, off Immokalee Rd., 1 block west of 175.

Meet inside at café to sign up and get walkie talkies. For those who wish to meet at Lake Trafford, at 8:00am please call Roberta at 239-775-4160 by Thurs. January 19th, before 8pm.

Bunche Beach, Ft. Myers

Saturday, March 10th - 6:45am-noon

Bunche Beach sand/mud flats offer great views of multiple species of shorebirds. Charlie Ewell leads this Lee Bird Patrol trip and is a great teacher. Wear shoes to wade in: **NOT flip-flops**. Usually only an inch+ water in places.

Directions: Meet at Publix parking lot, Immokalee Rd and US 41N. **Parking fees at beach.**

Freedom Park , Naples

Saturday, March 17th - 8am-12 noon

Amenities include a 5-acre lake with approximately 3500 feet of boardwalk constructed throughout the park. Existing on site wetlands, have been restored via removal of exotic vegetation and planting of native species. Other amenities include six lookout pavilions, water fountains, and walking trails.

Directions: Northeast corner of Goodlette Frank Rd. and Golden Gate Parkway. Meet in the parking lot off Golden Gate Parkway.

Colliers Reserve Golf Course—REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Tuesday, March 20th, 6:30am-9:30am

Reservations required by Friday, March 16th

Trip is limited to 23 people - \$5.00 each for cart

We usually see 25-35 species of birds including water birds, nesting Osprey, buntings and many more. Colliers Reserve is the first Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designated golf course in Collier County. They use practices that are more environmentally friendly than other courses. Golf carts will be provided by Colliers Reserve. Trip leader, Pete Thayer, life list 5000+, owner of Thayer Birding Software.

Call Audubon office at 239-643-7822 by MARCH 16th for reservations.

Directions: The golf course is located on the north side of Immokalee Rd. about **1/2 mile east** of US 41. The light is at Creekside and the new Naples Daily News building. Proceed to the gate and they will have a list of pre-registered participants. Assemble at the cart building. Bathrooms are available at the cart drop and along the route.

Everglades National Park , Homestead,FL _REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Saturday, March 24th, 7:00am to Sunset

Registration required by Thursday, January 22. Please call Roberta at (239) 775-4160 to register.

Meet at the Coe Visitor Center at the entrance to Everglades National Park in Homestead at 7:00 am. It takes about 3.5 hours to get over there, so consider getting a hotel. 80 species have been seen in one day. We will start at the Coe visitor's center and then bird all along the way to Flamingo, 36 miles. Picnic site at mid-day. This trip lasts until dark, but you can leave at any time. You **must bring food and water**. None will be available to purchase. Suggestions for hotels in the area can be found on www.southfloridabirding.com . Look under, "Where to Stay" in South Dade and Florida City. Park Entrance Fee may apply.

APRIL 2018



Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk, Eastern Collier County

Saturday, April 7th – 7:15-12noon - \$3.00 donation for Fakahatchee suggested

Spring migration may still be in swing with warblers and hawks, Eagles and waders. Beautiful boardwalk through ancient old growth Cypress. Some stops along the way are possible.

Directions: Meet at Publix parking lot at US41 east and Collier Blvd, 951. We park at the SW corner away from the store entrance. Bring water. 30+ minute drive to the boardwalk, if no stops are made.

Florida Panther Refuge Swamp Buggy Trip-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Saturday, April 14th- 8:00am-12:00pm

Trip is limited to 13 participants. Please call the **Audubon Office, (239) 643-7822 to register.**

Join us for a morning swamp buggy trip through the varied habitats of the Refuge, including cypress swamp, pine flat woods and wet prairies. We will learn about panther biology and conservation while traveling through one of Florida's wildest and most beautiful landscapes. The Refuge is home to many imperiled and native species, including the Florida Panther, Black Bear, Wood Stork, Deer, Bobcat, Orchids and Bromeliads. This is not a birding trip although many species of birds can be seen. AWE's Brad Cornell is the Trip Leader.

Naples Lakes Country Club, Naples– REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Saturday, April 21st - 7:15 am-9:30am

Registration required by Thursday, April 19th.

\$5.00 Cart Fee

This is a golf cart trip to the natural and mitigation areas throughout the community. Multiple species of woodpeckers may be seen. Usually lots of wading birds on this Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course.

Directions: Naples Lakes is located just north of Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. on the west side of Collier Blvd. (951), Meet at clubhouse.

Bird Rookery Swamp , Naples

Saturday, April 28th, 7:45am-noon

This trip has a wetland boardwalk and logging trails, plus open fields and a lake. Conservation Collier acquisition. Bathrooms on site.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot of the Rookery. Shady Hollow Rd is off Immokalee Rd. just east of Oil Well Rd. past the Orange Tree development, as the divided highway ends. Turn left and follow road north onto dirt road. Gate and parking lot on right side.

More trips coming soon!