



Friday January 17

Backcountry Swamp Buggy Trip - \$145 per person

Focus: Wildlife – This field trip will focus on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Board a swamp vehicle to explore the “off-limits” back country of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary’s north end. We will traverse several habitat types and will be on the lookout for the many birds of the back country, including hawks, warblers, ducks, sandhill cranes, wading birds, and more! We will also keep a lookout for other wildlife and learn about the management of this 13,000 acre sanctuary.

Birds of the Beach Workshop - \$20 per person

Focus: Birding – This workshop will focus on introductory shorebird identification and ecology. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: If you love the birds of the beach, then this field trip is for you! Join Adam DiNuovo, Stewardship Coordinator with Audubon Florida, for a 2-hour classroom session at the Rookery Bay Research Reserve Field Station discussing the amazing journeys of migrating and wintering shorebirds. The session will be followed by 1.5-hour field trip to Marco Island. There, you will visit the beautiful and scenic Tigertail Beach to practice shorebird identification skills.

Birding for Beginners - \$20 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Just starting out as a birder? Not sure what that big white bird in your backyard is? If you want to find out, join us for an easy walk at a great local birding spot. This trip provides an introduction to birding and tips on how to identify the most common birds in the area.

Calusa Cultural History Walk - \$20 per person

Focus: Cultural history – This field trip will focus on human involvement in the area visited, incorporating education on the wildlife, habitat and ecology, and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Enjoy a tour through time with one of Rookery Bay Reserve's certified interpreters. Traverse amazing Calusa Indian shell mounds and amble through historic pioneer homesteads while learning how these early settlers survived in Florida by living off the land and sea.

Swamp Tromp - \$20 per person

Focus: Wildlife – This field trip will focus on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Explore a unique swamp forest at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park with a Biologist. Many birds and animals inhabit the swamp including Red-shouldered Hawks, Belted Kingfishers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, Common Ground Doves, Limpkin, Florida black bear, River otter, the endangered Florida Panther and many more. Since there is no path, participants will wade through cypress forest and popash-pondapple sloughs in water from 1 to 2 feet deep!

Plants, Trees, & Cypress Knees - \$20 per person

Focus: Botany – This field trip will focus on the plants, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Join a Big Cypress National Preserve Park Ranger for a walk through cypress domes, pinelands and prairies to discover biological components of these unique plant communities. Learn to recognize key differences in these communities that occur with variations in climate, fires, flooding or human disturbance.

Ranger-Led Canoe Adventure - \$20 per person

Focus - Canoeing – This field trip will focus on the activity, incorporating education on wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description - Paddle and explore one of the scenic waterways in Big Cypress National Preserve where you will learn about diversity of plant and animal life along the way. The rain-fed system provides the healthy, crystal clear water that is essential to the aquatic life in the estuary and beyond in the 10,000 Islands. Exact paddling location will be determined by the water levels in January.

Saturday January 18

Lehigh Specialties Birding Walk - \$20 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: On this trip, we will spend time walking along an elevated berm around a portion of Harns Marsh Preserve, which is a part of the Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (Lee). Primarily, Snail Kites and Limpkin are the big draw here. Other fresh water birds, often secretive and difficult to see, can also be present here like American and Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Gray-headed Swamphen, and King Rail. After Harns Marsh, an optional side trip in the same general area will be offered for Florida Scrub-Jay.

Beach Birding for Beginners - \$20 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on introductory shorebird identification and ecology. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Do you ever wonder why shorebirds chase waves? Would you like to learn what shorebird species you see when you take a trip to the beach? If so, this is the program for you! Come and join Adam DiNuovo, Stewardship Coordinator with Audubon Florida, at Tigertail Beach on Marco Island. As a site on the Great Florida Birding Trail, it provides habitat for a wide variety of shorebirds. Black skimmers, Wilson's plovers, and Piping plovers are just a few of the birds you can see there. Observe shorebird behavior and learn about the importance of beach habitat to the birds.

Kirby Storter Boardwalk Birding - \$20 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Big Cypress National Preserve offers fantastic birding opportunities to see a range of many magnificent bird species from wading birds to migratory songbirds. Join a Park Ranger to learn the easy-to-get-to spots in the Preserve that can be enjoyed by amateur and expert birders alike. This includes a visit to the ½ mile Kirby Storter Boardwalk for an easy walk into a cypress strand. Check out the viewing scopes at HP Williams roadside park and enjoy a car caravan along Turner River Road through cypress, pinelands and prairies.

Botanical Birding Tour - \$40 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Approximately 180 species of birds have been identified at Naples Botanical Garden, making it one of Collier County's top birding hotspots. Join a Native Plant Specialist for a leisurely morning walk through both the designed and natural areas of the Garden – in search of wading birds, woodpeckers, and warblers!

Mangrove Tunnel & Mudflat Kayak Tour by Rising Tide Explorers - \$65 per person

Focus: Kayaking – This field trip will focus on the activity, incorporating education on the wildlife, habitat, and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Paddle with the biologist guides of Rising Tide Explorers! Journey into the backwaters of the Rookery Bay Reserve at the Isle of Capri. Explore the estuary by winding through beautiful mangrove tunnels, cruising over teeming mudflats, and examining intricate oyster reefs as you search for amazing wildlife like sea stars, large snails, birds, dolphin and manatee!

Morning Bird Walk - \$45 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on birds, other wildlife, and the habitat and ecology of the area visited. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is an Important Bird Area apart of the Atlantic Flyway for bird migration and is one of the gateway sites for the Great Florida Birding Trail. Experience the sights and sounds of the awakening swamp with one of our naturalists guiding you on the boardwalk to look for birds. Learn about the birds' life habits and the importance to these birds of the upland and freshwater wetland habitats that occur at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Sundown Swamp Buggy Tour - \$70 per person

Focus: Wildlife – This field trip will focus on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: This swamp buggy tour of the Refuge will take you through hardwood hammock, pine forest and parts of the northern extension of the Fakahatchee Strand cypress slough during sundown – a perfect time for wildlife viewing and photography. You will learn about Florida panthers and current efforts to restore the Florida Everglades' critical ecosystem to its former glory while traveling on the paths of Florida panther, black bear, deer, turkey and other wildlife that make their home on the Refuge. It is not unusual to see some of the 125+ species of birds and more than 25 species of mammals that share these lands.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Clusters - \$20 per person

Focus - Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description - Join a Big Cypress National Preserve Park Ranger and a FWC Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist for a visit to Raccoon Point. This wild and diverse area of preserve, not open to the general public, is home to a variety of wildlife including several groups of the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker. Learn how FWC and NPS staff work together to monitor this species and protect its habitat through prescribed fire. You may not only get a glimpse of the red-cockaded woodpecker and other old-growth pineland birds, but may also see tracks of Florida panthers and bears.

Sunset Roost Cruise by Conservancy of Southwest Florida - \$50 per person

Focus: Birding – This field trip will focus on the identification and biology of birds. Please bring binoculars and a bird field guide (if you have one).

Description: Cast off for some great birding and cruise Rookery Bay on the Conservancy's Good Fortune pontoon boat. Join us for a beautiful sunset cruise in search of nesting Bald Eagle and Osprey, terns, gulls, shorebirds and waders. Dusk brings thousands of Fish Crows, Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, herons, ibis and other wading birds in to roost on a few mangrove islands in Rookery Bay.

Sunday January 19

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Bear Island Panther Bike Ride - \$20 per person

Focus: Bicycling – This field trip will focus on the activity, incorporating education on the wildlife, habitat and ecology of the area visited and is NOT primarily a birding field trip.

Description: Join Big Cypress Rangers for a bike ride through diverse habitats used as the home range by the elusive Florida Panther and a variety of other wildlife. Along your 14 mile ride, stop at several stations to look for signs of panther, learn about their habitat, and find out what Big Cypress biologists do to study the Florida Panther.

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