

**Audubon of Southwest Florida**  
**2017 / 2018 Field Trips**  
**(emphasizing the Great Florida Birding Trail)**

Members and non-members / beginner to advanced birders – all are welcome!

Events are free; but, donations are always appreciated. Depending on the nature of the outing, you may want to bring a camera, field glasses, sunscreen, water, or even a folding chair. Dress appropriately for the weather. Parking or rental fees sometimes apply.

**Powell Creek Preserve**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017 – 8:00 am**

Join us as we revisit Powell Creek Preserve – this time during the rainy season. The Preserve offers a diverse variety of natural communities, and provides a closeup look of a functioning filter marsh.

**Hawk Watch**

**at the Sanibel Lighthouse**

**Sunday, October 15, 2017 – 8:00 am**

Led by Vince McGrath, this will be our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sanibel Lighthouse Hawk Watch. A short walk from the parking area to the lighthouse - you'll want to bring a folding chair as we watch overhead.

**Corkscrew After Hours**

**Panthers!**

**Friday, November 3, 2017 – 5:30 - 9:00 pm**

Interested in prowling around the swamp at night? Arrive early to learn more about Florida Panthers in the classroom from 6:00 to 7:00 pm during ASWF's and FWC's Panther Outreach Specialist, Jayne Johnston's presentation on "Living with Panthers". Afterwards, roam the boardwalk lit only by the moon and listen to the sounds of the swamp at night,

**Cape Coral's Rotary Park**

**Saturday, December 16, 2017 – 8:00 am**

Predominantly a mangrove estuary with a series of man-made wetlands, this is one of the only preserved green spaces in heavily-developed Cape Coral. As such, it is a magnet for species seeking out foraging areas.

**Black Island Trail**

**at Lover's Key State Park**

**Saturday, January 14, 2018 – 8:00 am**

Within Lover's Key State Park, the Black Island Trail is 2.5 miles of hiking adventure through a maritime hammock along the canal banks of Black Island.

**Kayak with the Manatees**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 – 9:00 am**

**& Monday, January 29, 2018 – 9:00 am**

One of our favorite annual outings, we launch onto the orange River from Manatee Park and are almost immediately surrounded by manatees. Bring your own kayak, or rent from the on-site outfitter.

**Bunche Beach**

**Saturday, February 17, 2018 – 8:00 am**

Experience one of the best birding sites in Lee County.

This is a natural tidal wetlands area located on San Carlos Bay. A natural area indicative of the entire area before the introduction of exotic plant species - it is "Old Florida."

**Bicycle Tour of Ding Darling**

**Sunday, February 25, 2018 – 8:30 am**

Another annual favorite, we leisurely bicycle the 8 mile round trip on Wildlife Drive with incredible views of herons, egrets, ibises, storks and spoonbills.

**Matanza's Pass Preserve**

**Saturday, March 17, 2018 – 8:00 am**

Boardwalk trails through this preserve lead through the mangroves (watch for Palm Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers) to an overlook at Estero Bay where low tide brings great views of wading birds. This site is an often overlooked jewel.

**Caloosahatchee Regional Park**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 – 8:00 am**

The diversity of habitats in this park guarantees an impressive species list. Walk the trails on the south side of CR 78 (River Rd.), passing through dense hardwoods to the river overlooks.

**Six Mile Cypress Slough**

**Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 8:00 am**

This site offers some of the best birding around. The boardwalk invites you to walk slowly and silently through the freshwater swamp and hardwood hammocks, watching the wildlife at close range. Blinds and viewing platforms offer places to sit for long periods and observe.

**Shorebirds! - dates to be determined**

We'll meet at Bunche Beach with our volunteers from the Florida Shorebird Alliance to check out the shorebirds.

There will be multiple dates upcoming.



*Protecting Nature... For People Too.*

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