

## Little Estero Lagoon – Birding Walk

Date: **Saturday**, January 16, 2010

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).

Field Trip Description: We will spend the morning walking along the inner path and outer beach that surrounds Little Estero Lagoon, a State-designated Critical Wildlife Area. Wading birds such as egrets, herons, and White Ibis are likely and Roseate Spoonbills may still linger in the early morning. Shorebirds likely to be seen include Western and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, and up to 5 species of plover including Black-bellied, Wilson's, Semipalmated, Piping, and Snowy. Additional shorebird possibilities include Red Knot, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, and American Oystercatcher. Wintering gulls and terns (Royal, Sandwich, Forster's) may also be present.

Maximum Group Size: 20

Time Begin: 8:00 am

Time End: 11:00 am

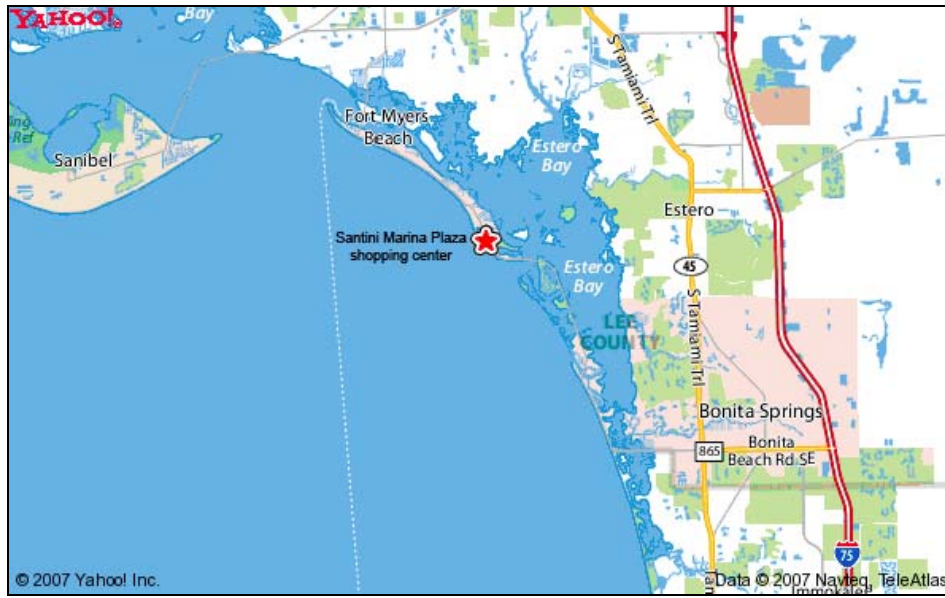
Where to Meet: Meet by **7:50 am** at the **Santini Marina Plaza Shopping Center, Ft. Myers Beach (Lee County)**

Directions to Meeting Place: Directions to Santini Marina Plaza Shopping Center, Ft. Myers Beach (Lee County)

**From the south:** Use I-75 exit 116 and go west on Bonita Beach Rd. Cross US-41 and continue west on Bonita Beach Rd. Bonita Beach Rd will become Hickory Blvd after it turns north. Take Hickory Blvd all the way to Estero Blvd, which begins when you cross the small bridge over Broadway Channel leaving Little Hickory Island /Bonita Beach. Continue north on Estero Blvd and across the large draw bridge over Big Carlos Pass and onto Estero Island/Ft Myers Beach. Santini Marina Plaza will be the first shopping center on your right after a little more than a mile from the bridge.

**From the north:** Take Summerlin Blvd (from US-41) or McGregor Blvd (from downtown Ft Myers or Cape Coral) to San Carlos Blvd. Continue south on San Carlos Blvd till you cross the large bridge over Mantanzas Pass and onto Estero Island/Ft Myers Beach. San Carlos Blvd becomes Estero Blvd after the bridge. Continue on Estero Blvd for approximately 4.5 miles to Santini Marina Plaza on your left. Meet in the northwest side of the parking lot.

Map:



Trip Leader: Charlie Ewell, Lee County Bird Patrol member

Field Trip Cost: \$10 with Festival registration

Additional Information: The only facilities are located in the Holiday Inn at the north end of the lagoon, where we will begin.

What to Bring: Binoculars, water, snacks, and sunscreen. Insect repellent is usually not needed. The leader will have a bird field guide and a spotting scope, although you may prefer to bring your own if you are comfortable walking a fairly long distance with it. We also suggest that you bring a small day or fanny pack to carry these items in so that your hands will be free while birding.

What to Wear: Clothing appropriate for the weather. Wading shoes (it may be necessary to wade across a shallow area of the lagoon), long sleeved shirt and long pants if you are susceptible to sun, and a hat.

Revised: 9/3/2009 4:33 PM

