

Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge – Marsh Trail Birding Hike (Friday)

Date: **Friday**, January 13, 2012

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 on a leisurely walk along Marsh Trail (2.2 miles roundtrip) which is the only trail access into the Ten Thousand Islands NWR. Participants will be able to observe and photograph wildlife from a two-story observation tower, of which the first floor is handicap accessible. The first 1/4 mile of Marsh Trail is paved, while the remainder is unpaved.

Wading birds such as great egret, snowy egret, black-crowned night-heron and white ibis should be plentiful and there is a good chance we will see wood storks and roseate spoonbills. We will also search for landbirds wintering in the tropical hardwoods along the road. More than 40 species of birds have been seen from the observation tower and the Marsh Trail. (This is the same field trip that has been offered in past years as “Oil Pad Road”).

Maximum Group Size: 20

Time Begin: 7:00 am

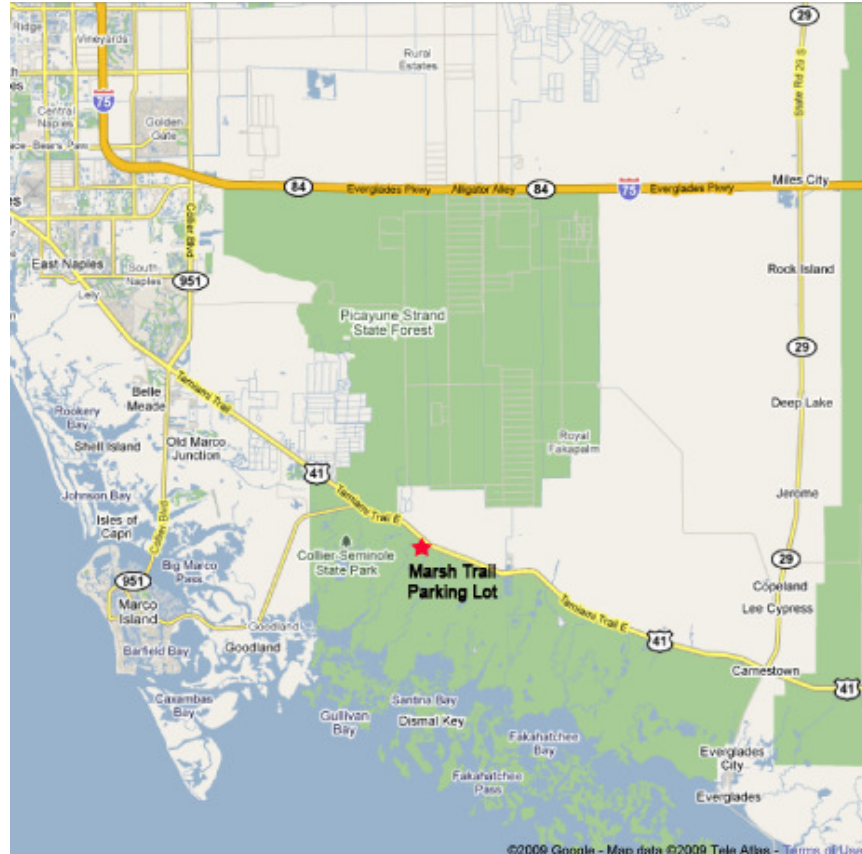
Time End: 11:30 am

Where to Meet: Meet by **6:45 am** at the new Marsh Trail trailhead parking lot on US 41, approximately **11 miles** from the intersection with Collier Blvd. (SR 951). (Tamiami Trail).

Directions to Meeting Place: From Naples: Take US 41 (Tamiami Trail) southeast through the intersection with Collier Blvd (CR 951). Continue past SR 92 (traffic signal) and past the entrance to Collier Seminole State Park. **The Marsh Trail parking** lot is about 2.8 miles east of Collier-Seminole State Park and County Road 92. The parking lot is marked and located on the right (south) side of US 41.



Map:



Trip Leaders: Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge staff.

Field Trip Cost: \$10

Additional Information: There are no facilities on the refuge (the nearest being at Port of the Islands or Collier-Seminole State Park).

*This trip entails considerable walking – approximately 2 miles round-trip.

What to Bring: Binoculars, camera, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. The leader will have bird field guides and a spotting scope, although you may prefer to bring your own. 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. Hiking boots or tennis shoes, long sleeved shirt and long pants if you are susceptible to insect bites or sun, and a hat.

Web Site: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/index.cfm?id=41555>

Revised: 10/12/2011