

Bunche Beach Preserve (San Carlos Bay) – Birding Walk

Date: **Sunday**, January 15, 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 walking along Bunche Beach, the mainland side of San Carlos Bay, which is a part of the **Lee County** Conservation 20/20 program. Shorebirds are the big draw here, but wintering gulls, terns, and wading birds should also be in abundance. Shorebirds likely to be seen include Western and Least Sandpipers, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Willet, and up to 4 species of plover including Black-bellied, Wilson's, Semipalmated, and Piping. Additional shorebird possibilities include Red Knot, Long-billed Curlew, and Marbled Godwit. Roosting flocks of Black Skimmers 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 **Bunche Beach Preserve parking area**.

Directions to Meeting Place: Directions to Bunche Beach Preserve, 18201 John Morris Rd., Ft. Myers (southern Lee County).

From the south: Use I-75 exit 131 and go west on Daniels Rd. Cross US-41 and continue west (name changes to Cypress Lake Blvd) to Summerlin Blvd. Turn left onto Summerlin Blvd, and continue to the traffic light at John Morris Rd. Turn left and continue south on John Morris to the Bunche Beach Preserve parking area.

From the north: From south Ft Myers, take Summerlin Blvd. (via Gladiolus Rd. if coming from US-41) to the traffic light at John Morris Rd. Turn left and continue south on John Morris to the Bunche Beach Preserve parking area.

From downtown Ft Myers or Cape Coral: Take McGregor Blvd. to the intersection where it becomes San Carlos Blvd. Continue straight on San Carlos Blvd. until you reach the overpass that is Summerlin Blvd. Turn right before the overpass and onto Summerlin Blvd. Continue west on Summerlin to the traffic light at John Morris Rd. Turn left and continue south on John Morris to the Bunche Beach Preserve parking area.

Trip Leader: Charlie Ewell, Lee County Bird Patrol member

Field Trip Cost: \$10

Additional Information: The only facilities are restrooms that are available on the top floor of the visitor's center that is located on the right after the small bridge as you approach the beach. You can park in that lot, or any spaces available along John Morris Rd. There may be a small charge for parking by the time of the festival.

What to Bring: Binoculars, water, snacks, and sunscreen. Insect repellent is possibly needed, as no-see-ums can be present early AM when winds are calm. 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.

Web: http://www.leeparks.org/facility-info/facility-details.cfm?Project_Num=0025

http://www.leeparks.org/pdf/SCBBBBP_brochure_for_web.pdf

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