January Guided Field Trips — Start the New Year off right! Go Birding!

With a few procedural changes during the Covid health crisis we will offer guided walks. Watch our emailed membership newsletters, our Facebook page and the VAAS events calendar on the VAAS website for added activities each month.

Participant Guidelines:

- Trip participants need to reserve a spot in advance by calling the trip leader 24 hours in advance and providing your name and phone number.
- Trips are limited to a maximum of 10 participants or as stated in the trip details.
- Face mask coverings are required.
- No sharing of equipment including binoculars or spotting scopes.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet separation is required. (Participants who are family members may be closer to each other).
- Leaders may remove their face covering to be heard by the group while maintaining physical distance.
- Trip leaders have the right to ask a participant to leave the program if someone is not adhering to these guidelines, for the health and safety of all.
- Trip Participants who are diagnosed or have symptoms of Covid-19 within 10 days following a field trip are required to contact the trip leader so notification can be made to the other participants of the possible exposure.
- DO NOT ATTEND a program if you have been quarantined, are sick or have a sick family member.

Donations:
Trip Leaders are volunteers. We are requesting a $5 per person donation in support of Venice Area Audubon programs. Bring exact change to reduce handling. NOTE: There is no donation requested at Broadmoor Park in Rotunda, where there is a park sponsorship of the walk or where there is a park entry fee.

Trips in January 2021

Jan. 2 (Sat.): Tippecanoe Environmental Park Search for Florida Scrub-Jays, woodpeckers, warblers and raptors in rare scrub and pine flatwoods ecosystems. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the park, 2400 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte. Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797.
Jan. 9 (Sat.): Laurel Landfill Meet at 8 a.m. at Pinelands Preserve trailhead, 4000 Knights Trail Road, Nokomis. Parking lot is on the right side just before the gate. We'll bird by car to see Bald Eagles, Eastern Meadowlarks, Eastern Bluebirds, woodpeckers, waders and a variety of other birds. Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.

Jan. 9 (Sat.): Carlton Reserve Up to three miles on easy trails. Trip starts at 8 a.m. from Carlton parking area, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice. Registration required. Charlie Sample, 941-468-1231 or csample41@comcast.net.

Jan. 14 (Thurs.): Celery Fields Exceptional birding location with a large variety of ducks, herons, egrets, hawks and other species that are frequently seen in large numbers. Bald Eagles, American Bitterns, Purple Gallinules, Roseate Spoonbills, and Soras are possible. Trip has three parts, allowing flexibility in distance walked. Meet at the picnic tables next to the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center, 6888 Palmer Blvd. at 9 a.m. Email Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com.

Jan. 16 (Sat.): Broadmoor Park, Rotonda West 1.2 mile easy stroll around the lakes to learn about the wildlife restoration effort (plants, insects and bird surveys). Seventy-five bird species logged here so far. Knowledgeable leaders will explain the habitat restoration project and eBird data collection to monitor changes in bird diversity and abundance. Meet at the Rotonda Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle at 8 a.m. Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797.

Jan. 16 (Sat.): Carlton Reserve “Car Caravan Trip” 7 miles into the backcountry. Many stops to bird. Trips start at 7:15 a.m. in the Carlton parking area 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice. Approximate duration: 5.5 hours. Bring binoculars, bottled water, and bird field guide. Note: Trails may be wet. Family members only per vehicle. Registration is required. Contact Charlie Sample to register, 941-468-1231 or email csample41@comcast.net to secure your place.

Jan. 18 (Mon.): Myakka River State Park This extraordinary wildlife preserve offers some of the best birding in Sarasota County. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in the first parking lot on the right. Entry fee. Park opens 8 a.m. Eileen Gerle, 631-599-8901.

Jan. 24 (Sun.): Rotonda Meadows and Villas For viewing Burrowing Owls, Eastern Meadowlarks, Loggerhead Shrikes, Kestrels and more. We will rendezvous at Susy’s house in South Gulf Cove, 9588 Arnaz Circle, Port Charlotte, 33981 at 8:30 a.m. and coordinate directions from there. Also, visitors can tour Susy’s native plant garden. Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797.
Jan. 26 (Tues.): Amberjack  This 225-acre park has several species of wading birds and a variety of other species. Bird from observation platforms on beautiful Lemon Lake. Meet at the park at 8 a.m., Amberjack Environmental Park, 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Englewood. Mike Weisensee, 717-898-6120.