

**HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
SOUTH FLORIDA WINTER RAPTOR AND BIRDING TOUR
February 5-12, 2012**

TOUR OVERVIEW
(Draft Copy –Subject to change)

Day 1: (Sunday, February 5) – Travel Day

Participants arrive in FL, shuttle to Best Western Airport Inn in Ft Myers. Tour begins at dinner at hotel.

DAY 2: (Monday, February 6) – Corkscrew Swamp/Sanibel Island - Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Visit National Audubon Society's world-famous Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in AM. Walk 2-mile boardwalk for target species like wood stork, painted bunting, white-eyed vireo, red-shouldered hawk, barred owl, limpkin, various warblers and yellow-crowned night heron. Sanibel Island in afternoon to explore the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (short-tailed hawk, bald eagle, reddish egret, roseate spoonbill to name a few). Dinner and sunset views over water from Sanibel Island. Accommodations at Best Western Inn in Ft Myers.

DAY 3: (Tuesday, February 7) – Big Cypress National Preserve & Everglades National Park

Visit Fakahatchee Strand (Big Cypress National Preserve) in AM, then to the Miccosukee Indian Reservation & Wetlands for viewing snail kites. Take 5-mile tram ride at Shark Valley entrance to Everglades National Park. Accommodations at Ramada Inn in Florida City.

DAY 4: (Wednesday, February 8) – Everglades National Park – Main Road

A full day exploring Everglades National Park via the main access road to Flamingo, birding along the way. We will visit Anhinga Trail, Eco Pond, and other renowned locations. Accommodations at Ramada Inn in Florida City.

DAY 5: (Thursday, February 9) – Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, & Green Cay Wetlands

A final morning exploring hotspots in and around the Everglades National Park. Depart for Florida's East Coast – specifically, the Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands for specialties such as purple gallinule, limpkin, black-bellied whistling-duck, sora, American Bittern, Wilson's snipe, mottled duck, and least bittern. If time permits, we will visit Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in the PM. Then to Clewiston, viewing extensive sugar plantations and Lake Okeechobee en route. Accommodations at Clewiston Inn in Clewiston.

DAY 6: (Friday, February 10) –Devils Garden Birding Park

A guided half day tour of the new birding park called Devils Garden by golf carts. Target species include snail kite (a specialty here), burrowing owl, barn owl, crested caracara, whistling-ducks, least bittern, wood stork, roseate spoonbill, purple gallinule, purple swamphen, and more. A relaxed afternoon of birding around Lake Okeechobee in PM. Accommodations at Clewiston Inn in Clewiston.

DAY 7: (Saturday, February 11) – Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, Estero Beaches

We will visit Babcock-Webb in AM for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and prairie species. Bunche Beach for shorebirds en route to Naples area (coastal drive) followed by a sunset nature cruise. Accommodations at Best Western Airport Inn, Ft Myers.

DAY 8: (Sunday, February 12) – Travel Day

Free shuttle bus from Best Western to Ft Myers Airport. Tour ends.