

Birding Adventures Schedule 2017-2018

Paddy Cunningham Biologist, Expert Guide and Birding Instructor



Take a birding adventure to explore the natural areas of Florida-Ft. Desoto, Fl. Keys, & Panhandle and Tropical destinations-Jamaica and Bahamas searching for local, rare and seasonal birds. Through a series of field trips, bird classes, instruction and expert guiding, YOU WILL GAIN knowledge, increase identification skills, add life birds, and enjoy touring with friends. My motto is YOU LEARN THE I.D.!!

FOR FASTEST RESPONSE-contact me www.birdpaddy@yahoo.com

For more info. call Paddy @ (754) 201-1141 Make checks payable to Patricia Cunningham.

October 29-Birding by Habitat-Bonnet House bird class & Richardson Park field trip.

I say birds are creatures of habitat. One of the best ways to find the birds you seek is know what habitat where they can be found. Some birds are very specific like Scrub Jays and some more general like Northern Mockingbirds. Learn what birds are likely to be found in the incredible variety of Florida's natural habitats. The class will include an informative power point, and numerous handouts. We will carpool to nearby "bird magnet" Richardson Park to see birds in a variety of habitats. Bring binoculars, bird apps if you have them and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25

Sun., Nov. 12-Shorebirds Made Easier-Bonnet House bird class & Ft. Lauderdale Beach field trip

Shorebirds are a difficult group of birds to identify for 2 reasons, in South Florida we see them only in their winter plumage and they all look alike, gray/brown moving rocks. Focusing on field marks may cause insanity. SO learn how the use of silhouette and feeding behavior can be the BEST way to identify this group of birds. The class will include an informative power point, numerous hand outs and a walk over to the beach for birds to see a variety of beach birds. Bring binoculars, bird apps if you have them and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25

Sun., Nov. 19—Plantation Preserve Birding Audubon FREE walk 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Join South Florida and Tropical Audubon Society's for a tour of Plantation Preserve wetlands. We will still try for Marsh Wren, wintering warblers and waterfowl, but different this year we try for Barn Owl at dusk. The preserve is on Broward Blvd., two miles east of University Drive. Meet Paddy at the trailhead past the playground. No fee.

December 10-Bird Behavior-A Key to Better I.D. Bonnet House bird class & Evergreen Cemetery trip

Learn how observing bird behavior can be essential to identifying a bird. Gain knowledge about flight and feeding behaviors that are unique to a variety of birds. The class will include an informative power point, numerous hand outs and a walk around the garden to look for birds. Bring binoculars, and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). Also if you have bird apps on your phone bring them. CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25.

Sat. Dec. 16-Christmas Bird Count South Florida Audubon Society

Join a team of birders to count the birds of Broward County on this special day. Join amateur scientists all over the country for this important scientific annual bird count. Meet for dinner to find out the total number of bird species found and which group found them. Contact Alison Sherflow at for more information.

EVERGLADES BIRDING FESTIVAL

Jan 11-15-EVERGLADES BIRDING FESTIVAL-Co-sponsored by SFAS and Birding Adventures

Jan. 11-Plantation Preserve Walk (FREE) with SFAS Steve Kaplan 8-11:30 am

Jan. 11-Broward Hot Spots field trip-1:30-5:30 pm

Jan. 11-Joint Meeting SFAS & EBF-Meet & Greet Happy Hour, Light Buffet, Keynote, Long Key Nature Center

Jan. 11-Keynote Paddy Cunningham-Everglades, Unique & Precious, A Natural History Tour of the Everglades and its birds.

Jan 12-Corkscrew Swamp field trip, Palm Beach wetlands field trip, South Dade wetlands field trip, 7am-5pm

Jan.12-Evening program, David Simpson, What can ebird do for you?

Jan. 13-South Dade Exotics field trip, Stormwater Treatment Area 5 field trip, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Jan. 13-Evening Program-Paddy Cunningham

Jan. 14- Everglades National Park field trip field trip, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Jan. 15-Upper Keys Natural History Tour, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.



Sun. Jan 21-Ascend to Better Birding-Part I-The Tools of the Trade-Bonnet House class-2:00-5:00 p.m.

Learn how to better use your binoculars, bird checklist and bird field guide book including field marks, glossary, and family organization. Learn about some of the latest birding apps such as e-bird, Audubon and Merlin to make identification easier using your smart phone. Find out about of the wonderful benefits of becoming a bird watcher, great local birding hot spots, and wonderful birding opportunities locally, in Florida and tropical adventures abroad. The workshop includes an informative power point presentation, numerous hand outs and a bird walk through the gardens. Bring binoculars, and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). Also if you have bird apps on your phone bring them. CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25.

January 26, 27, & 28-Space Coast Birding Festival, Titusville, Fl. Birding by Ear & Habitat workshops

Sun. Feb 11-Ascend to Better Birding-Part II-A 10 step approach to better identification bird class.

Learn a 10 step approach to increase your ability to identify birds such as family groups, behavior, silhouette, habitat, field marks, commonality, seasonality, birding by ear, plumage, use of checklist and apps. The class will include an informative power point, numerous handouts, workshop activity and a walk around the garden to look for birds. Bring binoculars, and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). Also if you have bird apps on your phone bring them. CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25

February 17-19-North Florida Weekend Adventure-St. Mark's NWR, Wakulla S.P., Paynes Prairie S.P., Panacea, and more.

North Florida is a different climate zone and thus attracts many northern species in the fall and winter. We will search numerous natural areas for up to 130 plus species such as Redhead, Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, Brown Creeper, Kinglets, Nuthatches, Rusty Blackbird, American Pipet, Fox, Nelson Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows. A stop at the new Sweetwater wetlands should produce numerous species of ducks. A boat ride on Wakulla Springs might yield Hooded Merganser and Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Step back in time for a special dinner at the Wakula Lodge. At Ponce De Leon Springs S.P. shaded trails hold Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets. BUT St. Mark's will be the focus with a great diversity of habitats and chances for great birds. Cost includes-3 days of expert birding, 2 nights dbl. occupancy, transportation for the first 5 birders, 2 breakfast, 1 lunches, Cost-\$350



March 11-Birding by Ear Bonnet House bird class

Most advanced birders, bird by ear to identify the birds they seek. The good news is that each makes a unique sound to help identify them. That is the bad news too. Learn birding by ear with techniques such as repetition, use of human words, sound type, family groups, habitat and more. The class will include an informative power point, numerous hand outs and a walk around the garden to look for birds. Bring binoculars, and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25

March 26-28 Grand Bahamas Tropical Adventure

Only a 5 hour ferry ride away but a whole different world awaits us with tropical bird species in the Grand Bahamas. Lead by local expert Erika Gates who will shows us the specialties such as Bananaquit, Red-legged Thrush, Western Spindalis, Cuban Emerald & Bahama Woodstar Hummingbirds. We will stay in a garden bed and breakfast next to the beach to maximize our chances to see a variety of birds. On the ferry ride we will pelagic bird from the deck. Day trips will include Garden of the Gods and numerous birding hot spots. All transportation on island is provided in a comfortable bus. Trip includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, transfers to and from ferry in Bahamas, expert guide Paddy Cunningham and local expert Erika Gates.



April 7, Pelagic Adventure Trip, Ft. Lauderdale, South Florida Audubon Society

Head out to sea to search for pelagic birds at sea. Although this is difficult birding it can be rewarding in that almost every bird you see can be a life bird. Stay tuned for further details.

April 8, Warblers Made Easier, Bonnet House Bird Class

Warblers are the most beautiful but also the most difficult group to see and identify. Learn some field tried tips to learn how to break this group down into manageable parts. They don't call it warbler neck for nothing. The class will include an informative power point, numerous hand outs and a walk around the garden to look for birds. Bring binoculars, and a field guide (if possible can be provided upon request). CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 EXT 137. Cost \$25 CONTACT LINDA at (954) 563-5393 ext. 137. Cost \$25

Sat April 21/Sun April 22 Ft. DeSoto, Celery Field, Cecil Webb/Babcock Weekend Adventure Getaway

Ft. DeSoto is one of the best spots for spring migration and the possibility of 100 plus species for this trip. Varieties can include 15 species of warblers-Hooded, Blackpoll, Cape May, 12 shorebirds-Whimbrel, Wilson's Plover, Painted/Indigo Buntings Scarlet/Summer Tanagers, Wood/Swainson/Veery Thrushes and Blue/Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The drive over includes a stop at Six Mile Cypress boardwalk for a variety of warblers and songbirds during migration. On Sunday an early a.m. walk in Ft. De Soto for more, and then south to the Celery Fields for Bobolink, Wilson Snipe, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, shorebirds and possible King Rail. At the Cecil Webb for Eastern Bluebird, Pine Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Trip includes 2 days of expert birding by Paddy Cunningham, 1 night's hotel, 1 lunch and 1 breakfast. Cost-\$285. For further information and reservation contact Paddy at birdpaddy@yahoo.com



Sat., April 28 – Richardson Park & Evergreen Cemetery Birding FREE Audubon walk

South Florida Audubon Society's Paddy Cunningham starts with a visit to Evergreen Cemetery in Ft. Lauderdale. It should be great for spring warblers. Then we will carpool to another Broward hot spot Richardson to search for more migrating birds. The state park's entrance is on Sunrise Blvd., just west of A1A. Meet at 8:00am at Evergreen Cemetery in the southeast

Jamaica Tropical Adventure June 15-19

As a tropical island, Jamaica's climate is a bird haven year round. The island also boasts a range of habitat which attracts a variety of bird species, from lush lowland jungles and extensive shorelines to high elevation mountains and midrange grasslands, meandering rivers, dramatic waterfalls, coffee plantations and dry savannahs. There are 28 endemics found nowhere else in the world and last year as we found them all. The spectacular views from Strawberry Hill and the veranda of our Blue Mountain hideaway Woodside provide great birding and dining opportunities. Goblin Hill Villas overlooking a turquoise bay is tropical lodging and was a great location for Parrot and Potoo watching. Ecclesdown Road is some of the best birding in Jamaica where we found both Jamaican Lizard and Chestnut-billed Cuckoos. Part of the fun of the trip is the great cultural experiences at the Old Tavern Coffee Plantation and the tranquil Reach Falls. **Join the fun.**

Trip includes: Expert Jamaican Leader-Lyndon Johnson, Cultural Leader Lynda Lee Burke and Expert Guide Paddy Cunningham, All Meals, Transportation & Airport Transfers in Jamaica
All activities described including: Blue Mountain National Park, Rio Grande Rafting, Reach Falls, Clifton Mount, Holleywell National Park, Strawberry Hill, Castleton Botanical Gardens, Old Tavern Coffee Plantation, Lodging-Woodside Manor-Blue Mountains, Goblin Hill Villas-Port Antonio
Cost-\$1850 dbl. occupancy Does NOT include airfare from Miami to Kingston, Jamaica.

