

**Thursday Oct 12, 2023**

**T Thur Florida Specialties Bus Trip T-BT**

Leaving from FWC Youth Conservation Center, 6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL

Meet at 7:00 am. Bus leaves at 7:30 am, returns at 4:30 pm.

Limited to 30 participants. No parking fees.

Leaders: David Goodwin, Jim Eager (423)593-0059.

Bring water, snacks, hat, insect repellent.

Board the bus for an all-day cross-Florida adventure as we search for some of Florida's most unique and iconic species. Expert birders Dave Goodwin and Jim Eager will take you into the cattle country of Central Florida as they hunt for a number of exciting birds. You will hopefully find Purple Gallinules, Crested Caracaras, Snail Kites, Bald Eagles, Sandhill Cranes, Limpkins, Red-headed and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and Bachman's Sparrows. They will share stories about this wonderful habitat of ranches and woods and the birds that live there. Please join us for a fun day as we kick off the 2022 Florida Birding and Wildlife Festival.

**This trip is by bus-only.** All registrants must meet at the Festival site at **7:00 am** to begin boarding. Be sure to bring insect repellent, water, snacks, and a hat, and to wear walking shoes. **This tour includes a box lunch.**

**Directions from Brandon area:**

**NOTE: Because of intermittent closure of the Big Bend/Rt 41 intersection, this has alternate directions. If Big Bend is open, take I-75 south, use Exit 246 for Apollo Beach/Big Bend Rd, go West, cross Rt 41, and follow Big Bend/Dickman Rd to the Center. If you get to the intersection on Big Bend Rd and the intersection is closed, turn Right/North on Rt 41, go just under 1 mile, and just before the RR tracks, turn Left onto Pembroke. Follow directions below.**

Take I-75 South to Gibsonton/Riverview Exit 250.

Go West 1 mile on Gibsonton Dr to red light at Rt 41. Turn Left/South.

Go south for 2 miles. Just after you cross the RR tracks, turn Right/West onto Pembroke Rd. Follow road as it bends left, becomes Wyandotte Rd, to stop sign.

At stop sign turn Right/West onto Big Bend Rd. Follow road as it turns left/south at the Manatee Viewing Center. After you cross the small bridge, just over 1 mile from stop sign, turn right into YCC.

Meet bus at Youth Conservation Center.

