Birding Trip: Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

October 9 - To be determined - 3:30pm
Boardwalk Convention Center Porte Corchere

Join expert birders here at Walt Disney World on a trip to a local birding hotspot! Florida is a wonderful birding destination. It’s a great introduction to North American birds for first time visitors. It also holds several species whose primary ranges include the Caribbean Islands and Central and South America.

The day will begin at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area where we hope to see the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker first thing in the morning. Other pinewoods and upland species present here include Common Ground-Dove, White-Eyed Vireo, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Common Yellowthroat, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee and Bachman’s Sparrow. Oak woods on the property will be checked for migrant passerines plus Barred Owl, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse. Open areas provide a slim chance for White-Tailed Kite, while lakes hold many wetland species.

Around mid-morning, a trip down Joe Overstreet Road will hopefully produce Wild Turkey, Whooping (non-migratory reintroduced flock) and Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing Owl, Crested Caracara, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark. Where the road dead-ends at the fish camp and airboat dock on Lake Kissimmee, many waterbirds and other wetland-associated species can be seen. Possibilities include Black-Bellied Whistling-Duck, Mottled Duck, Wood Stork, Anhinga, almost all Florida herons and egrets, Least and American Bitterns, White and Glossy Ibises, Osprey, Snail Kite, Bald Eagle and other raptors, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin and migrant and wintering shorebirds.

Birding Trip – Wildlife Management Conservation Area

October 15 - 6:00 am – 8:30 am
Y&B Convention Center Porte Corchere

A large portion of Disney Property has been set aside as conservation easements. Guests and most Disney Cast Members have no access to these areas, but you are invited on an early morning bird trip to what is arguably the most beautiful part of Walt Disney World. The vehicle will leave promptly at 6 am from The Porte Cochere at the Convention Center and it will return to the Convention Center by 8:30. Our Disney birders will point out many widespread permanent residents who make their home here. We will also keep an eye out for locally
uncommon species like Short-Tailed Hawk. This is the perfect time for fall migrants, which means we could spot some hard-to-find flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks. Come with us to explore the natural side of Disney!

**Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (LANSRA) Birding Trip**

October 16, 2013 – 6:00am to 3:30pm  
Yacht & Beach Convention Center Porte Cochere

Come experience the fruit of continuing restoration along Florida’s fourth largest lake. Lake Apopka was once the most polluted lake in the state due to human alteration of its natural water cycles and conversion of its north shore wetlands to agriculture. Beginning in the late 1980s, the St. Johns River Water Management District purchased 20,000 acres of farmland along the north shore of the lake to initiate wetland restoration, thus improving water quality and wildlife habitat. Although a small part of the area has been opened to the public, the majority remains closed – except for special occasions. We will tour the property with a water management district representative who will show us many birds and also explain the historical and current practices used to restore the wetlands and Lake Apopka.

The Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area (LANSRA) has a growing bird list of 350 species. In December 1998, a total of 174 species was recorded during the first Apopka/Zellwood Christmas Bird Count (CBC), making it the highest inland count recorded in the nation. At least 150 species has been recorded during each CBC since then. The property is a haven for wetland species such as Black-Bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Mottled Duck, Wood Stork, Anhinga, Least and American Bitterns (non-breeding), several heron and egret species, White and Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill and freshwater migrant shorebirds. Many raptors also patrol the area including Black and Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, and several hawks including (but not limited to) Sharp-Shinned, Cooper’s, Red-Shouldered and Red-Tailed. Brushy areas provide habitat for wrens, sparrows and some warblers and flycatchers. Spots with open water are good for wintering waterfowl in season, as well as large concentrations of Common Gallinules and American Coots. Neotropical migrants such as flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks could be present in the property’s wooded areas during mid-October. Come explore this exciting area with the experts!

The number of participants for all trips is limited. To sign-up, please email Jamie Sincage at [jamie.sincage@disney.com](mailto:jamie.sincage@disney.com)