



Presents 2006/07

Nature and Wildlife Tours



8438 SW 48 AVENUE
Palm City, FL 34990
(772) 286-6200
www.TCWH.org

A non-profit corporation helping south Florida's wildlife and natural environments.

Proudly Serving the Wildlife and the People of The Treasure Coast Since 1974

TCWC
TREASURE COAST WILDLIFE CENTER
8438 SW 48 AVENUE
Palm City, FL 34990

To: _____



Registration for **Treasure Coast Wildlife Center Nature & Wildlife Tours 2005/06**

CIRCLE: Everglades Nat'l Park THUR JAN 25 SAT FEB 17 THUR MAR 29 SAT APR 14
Merritt Island NWR THUR DEC 28 SAT JAN 13 THUR MAR 1 SAT MAR 24

Name(s) of registrant(s) _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone(s) _____ Email _____

Number of persons registered (by dates) _____

Fee enclosed (Members \$50, Non-members \$60 X number persons X number dates) \$ _____

Make checks payable to Treasure Coast Wildlife Center and mail to
8438 SW 48 Avenue, Palm City, FL 34990
or call 772-286-6200 to charge your credit card

THUR DEC 28 OR SAT JAN 13 OR THUR MAR 1 OR SAT MAR 24: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore (MINWR) is *the* place to find waterfowl and shorebirds. We've seen the skies darkened by

tens of thousands of ducks of a dozen species; observed the unusual feeding habits of hundreds of gigantic White Pelicans, migratory visitors from Great Salt Lake; watched a Peregrine Falcon literally tear through the sky as it chose a meal from a flock of Lesser Yellowlegs. This is also one of the few places where both Normal and White Phases of the Reddish Egret can be seen performing their feeding antics. Bald Eagles engaged in aerial dogfights with Ospreys over some fishy meal are common sights. Rare birds frequently seen include the Roseate Spoonbill, the Pileated Woodpecker, and numbers of Scrub Jays. With America's Space Shuttle in the background we've watched Northern Gannets dive headlong into schools of baitfish where Horned Grebes, Common Loons, and Red Breasted Mergansers also swam in pursuit. Once we even watched a group of Southern Right Whales breaching and rolling off the beach. Finally, Manatees gather at a viewing area almost within arm's reach. The list goes on and on; during most trips to MINWR we have observed and identified more than 70 species.



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THUR JAN 25 OR SAT, FEB 17 OR THUR MAR 29 OR SAT APR 14: Everglades National Park (ENP) is rightly one of the most popular of our national parks. Vast panoramas encompass pristine portions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas' archetype "River of Grass" Everglades. Forests of tropical hardwood trees are festooned with orchids, bromeliads, and ferns. Birdlife is abundant; winter drydown concentrates herons, egrets, and the endangered Wood Stork sometimes into teeming throngs. Nesting Anhingas are found along the trail bearing their name, but so are rare Purple Gallinules and Least Bitterns. We have

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Florida's unique location as a peninsula gateway between temperate regions and the tropics makes it one of the greatest bird viewing locations anywhere on earth. Tremendous numbers of migrants fly into or through Florida each year, with many congregating in spectacular natural environments along the way. And we have selected the best of the best of these places as destinations for our annual Nature and Wildlife Tours.

Note that these are *our own groups*, and are led by *our own* knowledgeable staff. We drive the van, we go where we want, and we set the schedule to suit ourselves. When we see something interesting we stop, get out the binoculars, spotting scope, and cameras, and just enjoy the moment. When everyone has had their fill, we move along. No lengthy hikes are necessary on any of these trips, although the opportunity exists for the more adventurous among us. Our destinations teem with so much wildlife that we can "road hunt" in comfort; something new and exciting always awaits us around the next bend! Our naturalists are pretty darn good at finding fascinating critters, and also quite good at explaining their habits and natural history. You need no prior experience; we accommodate first time nature lovers as well as experienced birders, and both amateur and professional photographers. Frankly, we love going to these places ourselves, and delight in pointing out natural wonders to new eyes. Group size is limited, ensuring personal satisfaction for everyone. We all have a great time, and we learn something new on every trip. *Join us!*



of finding the incredibly rare American Crocodile as well. With the approach of evening, vast rookeries of birds gather around us. Typically our groups see more than 60 species.



seen Bald Eagles, Swallowtailed Kites, Broadwinged Hawks, and other raptors.

ENP is of course a great place to see American Alligators up close and personal, but it is also the only place in the country where we have a good chance



All tours require advance registration and payment of the per person fee. Minimum 6 persons, maximum 10 persons on each tour. Participants must be at least 14 years of age; minors must be accompanied by an adult. Tours may be cancelled for lack of registration, in which case full refunds will be given. We will leave TCWC promptly at 9:30 AM. Van transportation and a staff naturalist will be provided. *Bring your own equipment, food and drink* (we will have a cooler, but no restaurant stops are included, so plan accordingly), *insect repellent, and weather-appropriate clothing*. We expect to return to TCWH around 6 to 8 PM.