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Mark your calendar for Lee County Birding Seminar

FORT MYERS, Fla., January 27, 2016 – Join local, national and international experts for two days of exploring the science and value of our birds in Southwest Florida and beyond. UF/IFAS Lee County Extension and Conservation 20/20 will host the second annual Lee County Birding Seminar on Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, for both beginning birders and those with extensive life lists. Participants will explore the local environment through guided field trips and lectures.

Scheduled activities from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 4, include three field trip opportunities; two on land and one by boat. The Cape Coral burrowing owl exploration will allow participants to learn more about this species and the challenges it faces living in an urban environment. The Bunche Beach birding habitat trip will visit a natural beach and help beginners identify habitat clues that are beneficial to shorebirds and wading birds. The Estero Bay wading bird boat trip, co-sponsored by Fish Tale Marina, will tour the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve to observe wading birds in their native habitat.

From 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, participants will hear lectures on birds, birding behavior, and human and bird interactions. Nine speakers include Dr. Jerome J. Lorenz, research director at Audubon Florida; Charlie Ewell, longtime Lee County educator; and Dr. Rebecca Kimball, associate professor of evolutionary biology at UF.

Registration for the lectures is \$30 and includes a light breakfast. Registration for the boating trip is \$6. The land-based field trips are included in registration. To register, visit <http://2016swflbirdingseminar.eventbrite.com>. For detailed agenda of field trips and speakers visit <http://goo.gl/UacAKO>.

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