



The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society November 2018 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org

GENERAL MEETING—DECEMBER 6

Hillsborough County UF Extension Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
6 PM Photo Club ~ 7:00 PM Potluck dinner ~ 7:30 PM Meeting and Program
Bringing a dish to pass is optional.

Speakers—Doug DeNeve, Mic McCarty

Rock Ponds and Schultz Preserves



Tampa Audubon has been doing regular surveys of these 2 SWFWMD properties for a year, and Doug and Mic have been the main coordinators. They'll be reporting on what we've found. Both locations have been the site of major land restoration, and the current conditions are wonderful. They'll talk about what birds are using the properties, where the activity is, and what recommendations we made to SWFWMD for future improvements and uses. Which one used to have over 6000 wading bird nests? Where have a barn owl, and a bobcat, been sighted? Where have the gull-billed terns been resting? And what has become of that plan for a ferry? Come get the answers to these and more.



HOUSE SPARROWS NEEDED!

Researchers at USF are looking for populations of house sparrows, to test the effects of light (shopping center lights, etc.) on their immunity to Zika and other viruses. But they can't find enough sparrows!!! If you know where there's a population of house sparrows outside of urban Tampa, please contact them. Email Bilal bkous-sayer@mail.usf.edu or Meredith at kern-back@mail.usf.edu, or text the location to Bilal at 813-966-3255. The research is being done under Dr. Lynn Martin, Dept of Integrative Biology.

Thank you!!

Christmas Bird Counts are coming!

This is the 119th year! Be part of something big!

Spend as much or as little time as you want. Two hours is great, all day is fine. Help is always appreciated as we try to count every feathered thing in the area! If you live inside a count circle you can even sit in your backyard and count your feeder birds. Just report them to the leader for your area.

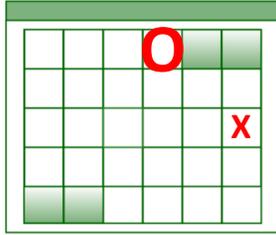


UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

On most trips we have binoculars to loan, so don't hesitate to come! Unless otherwise indicated field trips do not require advance registration. Most are free.

Everyone is welcome! **As always, check the TAS website for details.**

[See leader list on the next page for contact emails.](#)



Dec 2—Al Lopez, Birds and Brunch at Village Inn

8:30 am Our traditional bird walk around the lake at Al Lopez Park followed by brunch at Village Inn. Meet in small parking area just north of entrance gate at 4810 N Himes, Tampa. Woods around lakes usually have winter warblers, woodpeckers and raptors. Easy walk on boardwalk or paved trail. Followed by brunch at Village Inn, 215 N Dale Mabry. Leaders Pam DeNeve and Megan Campbell.



Dec 8 — Lettuce Lake Beginners Bird Walk.

Meet at 9 am in the parking lot by the Visitor's Center at the park to walk the boardwalk with us.

Recent walks have found short tailed hawks overhead, blue-headed vireos in the bushes, and night herons fishing by the water. Come see what else we can find. Done by noon. Leader is Megan Campbell.

Dec 10 TAS North 11 am. Monday. Meet in Crystal Dining Room at Concordia Village, 4100 W Fletcher Ave, Tampa. Speaker will be Joel Jackson, on Landscaping for Wildlife. Anyone is welcome, but please email Pat Lewis in advance so she can let them know how many to expect.

Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS BEGIN DEC 14.

Christmas bird counts begin worldwide on Dec 14 and continue through Jan 5. There are multiple counts in this area. The closest ones are listed here, along with the emails for the coordinators for each one. If you can give a couple of hours, or the whole day, your participation will be greatly appreciated! Don't worry if you can't identify every little thing, eyes and ears are needed. Recorders are needed. Just get out and join the oldest citizen science project.

Dec 14—New Port Richey Peter Day p1rd@mac.com

Dec. 15—Lakeland—Cole Fredericks
cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com

Dec. 16—Alafia—Charlie Fisher chf1sher-cpa@hotmail.com

Dec 22—Lake Wales - Cole Fredericks

Jan 2—Green Swamp—Cole Fredericks

Jan 5—Tampa— Dave Bowman—
dsbowman4@verizon.net

VOLUNTEERS ARE LOVED AT LETTUCE LAKE!

The visitors at the **Audubon Resource Center at Lettuce Lake Park** would really love having a few more volunteers to answer their questions! Duties include: be available once every few months for a weekend afternoon to answer questions, direct visitors, keep track of numbers at the Visitor Center, and maybe lead a walk along the boardwalk. You will need to be certified as a County volunteer, and will receive orientation and training. Contact Roger Sheets, ARC Director.



Smile!

It's not quite Black Friday, but skip the stores, go for a walk and find some birds on Friday after all the turkey. Then do your on-line shopping where it will help support our programs! Remember, if you shop through Amazon Smile and indicate Tampa Audubon as your beneficiary, we get 0.5% of the value of your purchases to support our birds here. Just start each shopping session at the Smile URL <https://smile.amazon.com>. Here's a link to help: [How to donate to a charity on Amazon.](#)



Volunteers Work for Bluebirds



On a recent October morning, five volunteers accompanied Flatwoods Park Bluebird Trail Monitor Mary Miller on the seven mile trail loop to do annual maintenance on the bluebird boxes in anticipation of the 2019 bluebird nesting season. Volunteers Roxie Custalow, Bruce Dangremond, Tim Ohr, Steve Rickert, and Irwin Schuster relocated several bluebird boxes to more suitable nesting locations and moved some to higher ground so they wouldn't be in standing water during the rainy season. **Thanks to Mary Miller and all the volunteers!**



CONTACT LIST FOR TRIP LEADERS and BOARD

Mary Keith, President, trip leader
Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org
Michelle Hoffman Wrobel, Treasurer
michelle.hoffman.wrobel@tampaudubon.org
Sherry Keller, Secretary, trip leader
sherry.keller@tampaudubon.org
Nancy Murrah, VP of Board, Raptor Rescue, Eagle Watch
Nancy.murrah@tampaudubon.org
Connie Anderson, BoD, trip leader
Connie.anderson@tampaudubon.org
Megan Campbell, BoD Member, trip leader
Megan.campbell@tampaudubon.org
Doug DeNeve, BoD member, Conservation Chair, trip leader
Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org
Pat Lewis, BoD member, past President
pat.lewis@tampaudubon.org
Mic McCarty, BoD Member, trip leader
Mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org
Lucy Polak, BoD Member
lucy.polak@tampaudubon.org
Rob Yoho, BoD Member, trip leader
rob.yoho@tampaudubon.org

Roger Sheets, Lettuce Lake ARC Volunteer Director
roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org
Sandy Reed, Chair, Hooked Bird Project
Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org
Mary Miller, Bluebird Box Trail coordinator
limpkin1945@verizon.net

Membership Renewals

THANKS TO ALL THE RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS WE'VE RECEIVED RECENTLY! If you haven't renewed in some time, you're probably due too. Renew your Audubon membership through TAS so we get the funds sooner. When you receive your renewal notice from National Audubon, just download the application form from our website, or even just cut out the address label from the Audubon magazine, and send it to us with your check. We then forward your renewal to National, but we've recorded it here first. Thank you!!

We welcomed the following new or renewing members in November:

Roxie C.
Tom M.
Anya M.