



The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society MARCH 2019 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org

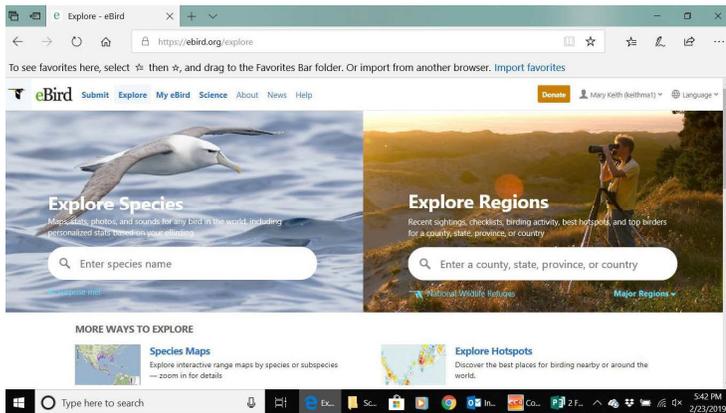
GENERAL MEETING—March 7

**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.**

Speaker—Eric Plage

eBird—How, What, Why, and More!

This talk will discuss the online database known as eBird, where thousands of birders enter in sightings and checklists each day that provide rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution. We will walk through how to get started, the amazing science being done with all the observations, and **why being an active participant in eBird is so important. Explore It!**



Eric Plage is a volunteer eBird reviewer for Pinellas County, Florida and has been birding since he was six years old. Eric has been birding locally in the Tampa Bay Area since 2007 and works for Tampa Bay Watch, an environmental non-profit that focuses on environmental restoration and education in the area.

<https://ebird.org/explore>

Schultz Preserve Update

The BOCC voted to reopen the contract to continue exploring the use of Schultz Preserve for a ferry terminal. **Please contact the Commissioners** to let them know that you are **not in favor of using ELAPP lands**, purchased and restored with taxpayer funds, for non-conservation uses! Our fear is that a use like this could open other ELAPP and other conservation lands to more projects that, while they might be good (as the ferry is), are not conservation. Setting a precedent like this could lead to losing all the gains our natural lands have made in recent years!

Please also consider **contacting the Tampa mayoral candidates** about their stand on using ELAPP lands for non-conservation uses. And do **VOTE** if you're in Tampa!

TAS North—Open to Everyone!

March 11: Speaker: Mary Keith

Topic: Our Feathered Snowbirds!

Second Mondays, Sept through May, from 11 am to noon.

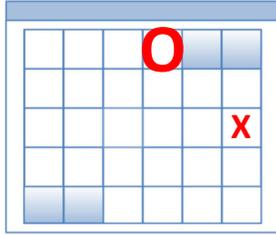
Concordia Village, 4100 E Fletcher Ave.

Meetings are in the **3rd floor Activity Room**. Please let Pat Lewis know if you plan to come, just so she can notify Concordia of how many people to expect. Free parking. And you're welcome to stay for lunch in their dining room.

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.](#)

March 2—Native Plant Society Walk at Lettuce Lake, 9 am. Meet INSIDE the Visitor's Center for the talk, followed by the walk.



March 7—General Meeting. Photo Club at 6 pm. Potluck Dinner at 7 pm. Program begins at 7:30 pm. Extension Office, 5339 CR 579, Seffner, 33584. **Eric Plage** speaks on the wonders of eBird!

Mar 9 — 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, ovenbirds under the boardwalk, and night herons fishing by the water. Come see what else we can find. Done by noon.

Mar 11— TAS North. 11 am. Monday. Meet in 3rd floor Activity Room at Concordia Village, 4100 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa. (Used to be John Knox Village.) Speaker will be Mary Keith, on Feathered Snowbirds.

Sat Mar 16 Celery Fields and Pinecraft Park, Sarasota. The Celery Fields preserve has hosted 239 species of birds. We'll explore the boardwalks and maybe some trails. For those interested, we will continue with a visit to Pinecraft Park in Sarasota. This small park has several loop trails along Phillippi Creek and through some very interesting, and usually very birdy, woods. There are several PA Dutch restaurants nearby if you would like to eat lunch there. Plan to meet either at the Audubon meeting location at the UF Extension Conference Center at 5339 CR 579, Seffner at 7:00 a.m. to carpool or meet in the

parking lot, 6893 Palmer Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34240 at 8:00 a.m. Google maps gives accurate directions. Contact leaders Mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org or mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

Sat Mar 30 Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

More than 150 species regularly use the Lake Apopka wildlife drive area. The site set a one-day Christmas Bird Count record in 1998 when 174 species were recorded. This is the highest Florida Christmas Bird Count for any inland (versus coastal) location. Plan to meet either at the Audubon meeting location at the UF Extension Conference Center at 5339 CR 579, Seffner at 7:00 a.m. to carpool or meet at the entrance, 2800 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703 at 8:30 a.m. Google maps gives accurate directions. Contact mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org for details.

Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks Apr 13, May 11, June 8 (8 am!)

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 rarely lead a walk along the boardwalk. You will be certified as a County volunteer, and will receive orientation and training. Contact Roger Sheets, ARC Director.

SAVE THE DATE—BIRDING FESTIVAL OCT 17-20

HOUSE SPARROWS STILL NEEDED



Researchers at USF are still needing populations of house sparrows for research on immunity!!! If you know where there's a population of house sparrows outside of urban Tampa, please contact them. Email Bilal bkoussayer@mail.usf.edu or Meredith at kernback@mail.usf.edu, or text the location to Bilal at 813-966-3255.

Field Trip Reports

The Merritt Island weekend was wonderful! The ducks cooperated on Black Point Drive, the Scrub Jays investigated a hat at Cruickshank, and there were hundreds of glossy ibis at Orlando Wetlands. But the highlight of the trip were the million American Robins going in to roost at sunset. We watched a continuous stream of them, a mile wide, cross the road for 40 minutes!



We also watched a Great Blue heron subdue, and then eat, this skate! Big lump going down, but down it went.

TERRA CEIA PRESERVE STATE PARK BIO-BLITZ, SAT. MARCH 16

Contact: Tracy Muzyczka

Tracy.Muzyczka@floridadep.gov

RSVP necessary for details

This is a community event in which teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and others work together to find and identify the many species of plants, animals, and other organisms that inhabit our surroundings.

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 February:

Karen, Mark, Mary, Patrick, Jodi, Paula, and Mark