

**The Avocet**

## **Tampa Audubon Society January 2019 Newsletter**

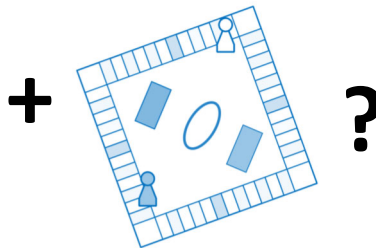
[www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)

### **GENERAL MEETING—January 3**

**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—Dr. Mark Hafen**

#### **“Sea Level Rise in Tampa Bay: Building Smart and Connected Communities”**



**Mark R. Hafen** is Assistant Director and Master Instructor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he directs the Master of Urban & Regional Planning (MURP) program, with an emphasis on climate change adaptation, and urban environmental policy and planning. He holds a B.S. in Business Logistics from Penn State University, as well as an M.A. in Geography and a Ph.D. in Marine Science (Geology), both from USF. He has professional experience in land use planning, and has lived in the Tampa Bay region since 1986.

He and his team of USF faculty have been developing a game to help communities have a conversation about how to prioritize limited resources in the face of rising sea levels. TAS members helped them do one afternoon's test run on the game, and it has been presented at a national meeting. They're still refining the options.

**Come hear how we and community leaders can play games now, so that they're not playing games when the waters come lapping at our doorsteps!**

#### **TAS North—Open to Everyone!**

**January 14:** Speaker: Nancy Murrah, President, Raptor Center of Tampa Bay  
**Raptors!** Guess who Nancy will bring, Owl, Hawk, Eagle?

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

**Concordia Village, 4100 E Fletcher Ave.**

Meetings are usually in the Crystal Dining 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.

#### **Christmas Bird Counts—**

##### **Just a few left, get in on the action.**

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. To be on a team, contact either:

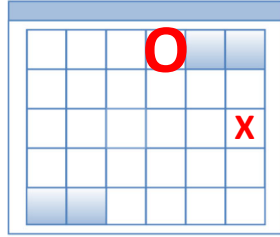
**Jan 2—Green Swamp—**Cole Fredericks—  
[cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com)

**Jan 5—Tampa—**Dave Bowman—  
[dsbowman4@verizon.net](mailto:dsbowman4@verizon.net)

## 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.](#)

**Jan 2—Lower Green Swamp CBC**

**Jan 5—Tampa CBC**



**Jan 12 — 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. Leaders are Megan Campbell, Sandy Reed and Mic McCarty.

**Jan 14 TAS North.** 11 am. *Monday.* Meet in Crystal Dining Room at Concordia Village, 4100 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa. (Used to be John Knox Village.) Speaker will be Nancy Murrah, on Raptors.

**Jan 15, 22, 29—OLLI classes at LLP** 10 am to noon. Contact Sandy Reed for more info. Registration is required through OLLI.

**Jan 19-20, STA5 and Corkscrew Swamp.** The drive begins at 8:15 am at STA5, about half hour south of Clewiston. You may choose to spend the night in Clewiston or drive down early from Tampa (~3 hrs). Carpooling at the Stormwater Treatment Area will be required. Fulvous whistling ducks and even the occasional flamingo might be there. We will have walkie-talkies to communicate. After STA5 we will return to Clewiston for lunch, then head west to Immokalee, birding along the way wherever recent reports indicate. Or we will head to Okalochochee Slough to check the trails there. There are several choices of motels in Immokalee for the night. Sun-

day morning will take us to Corkscrew Sanctuary bright and early. We will walk the boardwalk, check the feeders for painted buntings, and more. For info, contact Mary Keith. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED with Mary.** Do not register on Eventbrite from the STA5 website, we are group registered. Donation to Hendry Audubon, drive organizers, will be gratefully accepted.

**Jan 23-28—Space Coast Festival, Titusville.**

<https://scbwf.org/> for registration and information.

**Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks**  
**Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13**

**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.

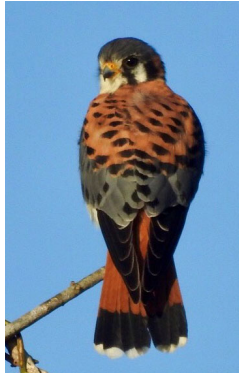


### HOUSE SPARROWS NEEDED

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 [bkoussayer@mail.usf.edu](mailto:bkoussayer@mail.usf.edu) or Meredith at [kern-back@mail.usf.edu](mailto:kern-back@mail.usf.edu), or text the location to Bilal at 813-966-3255.

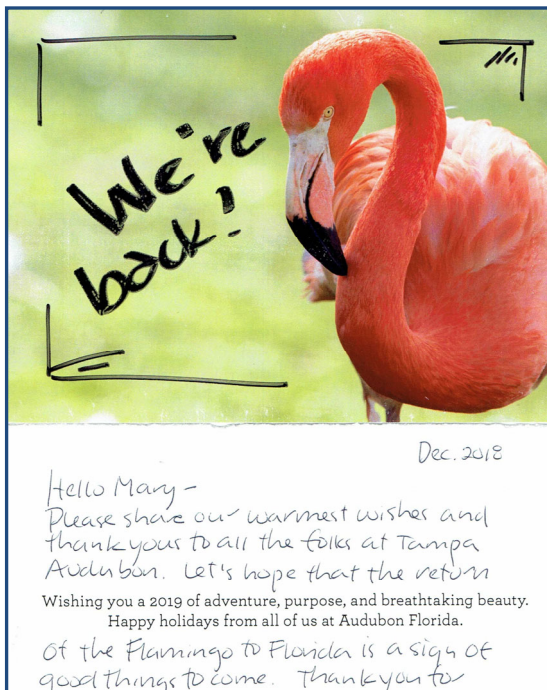
## CBC Notes

The team led by Mic McCarty as part of the Alafia CBC had a great day, starting with a great horned owl at daybreak, a peregrine falcon sitting on the TECO smoke stacks, and more. Another team found a **smooth billed ani** in the back recesses of Wolf Branch!



**INTERESTED IN GOING TO THE SPRING CHIRP BIRDING FESTIVAL IN WESLACO, TX, APRIL 24-27?** Someone would like to know if anyone else is interested. For details, check <http://www.springchirp.com/> and let Mary know if you're interested. I'll get you in touch with the other woman.

From FL  
Audubon  
Office &  
Jacqui  
Sulek,  
Chapter  
Conserv.  
Manager



## VOLUNTEER at ROCK PONDS

Pull PVC poles that mark planted pines. Saturday morning, **January 12, 2019**, 9am-12pm, just south of Ruskin. For more specific information and a portal to register, go to: <https://tbep.tech.org/news/237-tbep-public-calendar> Go to the January calendar, then Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>, and "more details". Or call Misty Cladas, phone 727-893-2765 ext. 207 or email [misty@tbep.org](mailto:misty@tbep.org) for more details. Sign up to volunteer via the website. Plus, lunch will be served!

## CONTACT LIST FOR TRIP LEADERS and BOARD

**Mary Keith**, President, trip leader  
[Mary.keith@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Mary.keith@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Michelle Hoffman Wrobel**, Treasurer  
[michelle.hoffman.wrobel@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:michelle.hoffman.wrobel@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Sherry Keller**, Secretary, trip leader  
[sherry.keller@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:sherry.keller@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Nancy Murrah**, VP of Board, Raptor Rescue, Eagle Watch  
[Nancy.murrah@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Nancy.murrah@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Connie Anderson**, BoD, trip leader  
[Connie.anderson@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Connie.anderson@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Megan Campbell**, BoD Member, trip leader  
[Megan.campbell@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Megan.campbell@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Doug DeNeve**, BoD member, Conservation Chair, trip leader  
[Doug.deneve@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Doug.deneve@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Pat Lewis**, BoD member, past President  
[pat.lewis@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:pat.lewis@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Mic McCarty**, BoD Member, trip leader  
[Mic.mccarty@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Mic.mccarty@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Lucy Polak**, BoD Member  
[lucy.polak@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:lucy.polak@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Rob Yoho**, BoD Member, trip leader  
[rob.yoho@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:rob.yoho@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Roger Sheets**, Lettuce Lake ARC Volunteer Director  
[roger.sheets@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:roger.sheets@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Sandy Reed**, Chair, Hooked Bird Project  
[Sandy.reed@tampa.audubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampa.audubon.org)  
**Mary Miller**, Bluebird Box Trail coordinator  
[limpkin1945@verizon.net](mailto: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 December:

Gerard L., Preeti C., Sherry D., Robert H., Margaret S.