

The JAY

The mission of the Seminole Audubon Society is to promote awareness and protection of the plants and animals in the St. Johns River basin in order to sustain the beneficial coexistence of nature and humans.

September – October 2017 A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

Seminole Solar Co-op Underway



When the President thumbed his nose at the Paris Climate Agreement, I was sad, disheartened and embarrassed. I think a lot of Americans felt the same way. The Accord, as both Al Gore and James Hansen have pointed out, in no way guarantees that disastrous climate events will be

avoided. Hansen has calculated that we must begin actually drawing CO₂ out of the atmosphere to avoid catastrophes. The Paris Agreement was significant because it meant we had achieved worldwide unanimity and that all nations' governments agreed to begin action; except for Syria, Nicaragua and the United States.

Within hours after the President's announcement my hope for cooperative action together as a nation was restored. Governors, mayors and scientists said they would not alter their existing plans for greenhouse gas abatement. Soon

The printing and mailing of this newsletter is made possible in part by the generous donations of Bob and Inez Parsell and ACE Hardware stores in Sanford, Longwood, Casselberry, and Oviedo.

businesses, state governments, cities, environmental organizations including



National Audubon, private individuals and partnerships said they would continue to pursue or intensify their mitigation strategies and actions. As an example, the City of Orlando just committed to power all their municipal buildings with renewable energy sources by 2030 and intends for the entire city to have carbon-free electricity by 2050.

I've been proud to represent Seminole Audubon in our partnership with the Seminole League of Women Voters Solar Co-op. Sharon Lynn, SLWV Conservation Chair and Co-op Coordinator, says Seminole is the 9th solar co-op in Florida (100th in the nation) and expects a dozen more to launch in the state in 2018. At this writing 144 Seminole roofs have qualified for installations and will receive quotes. Group purchasing will make a difference for these solar-wise homeowners.

Superior Solar of Altamonte Springs was chosen for the work by the Co-op Selection Committee. An intensive evaluation was made of all the bidding dealers. This process is highly advantageous for co-op members. The vetting virtually assures quality products and workmanship. Bidders all submitted prices by the watt but price was not the only consideration in the selection process.

I attended several of the public information sessions. FLSUN is the state, non-profit organization that conducts these meetings. Their staff is highly informed about all aspects of solar from kilowatts per hour of sunlight to photovoltaic manufacturers in China. I knew that PV panel costs had been coming down, but I was happily surprised when I saw some of the competitive prices achieved by other co-ops. Sharon says demand in Orange has been excellent and two more co-ops are scheduled there in 2018. The closing date for Seminole was August 25. She hopes there will be enough demand here to do another.

Sam Kendall

2017-2018
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Vacant	Programs	
Vacant	Field Trips	
Vacant	Audubon Adventures	
Vacant	Historian	

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

and Members NEW to our Chapter

Laura Cole	Deltona
Ms. Susan Cooper	Sanford
Jim Kosegi	Lake Mary
William Rivera	Deltona

Some Interesting Articles in **SAS Scrapbooks 1953-1977**

By Myra (Eisencoff) Platel

President of the Florida Audubon Society 1935-1939 lived in Sanford

In reviewing the scrapbooks I located a front-page picture followed by an article from Florida Magazine Sunday, April 24, 1966, titled: "Man of the Week: Audubon's C. Russell Mason". He first came to Florida in the late 1920s as a motivating force in the conservation movement. After leaving the state to teach at Penn State and Purdue, he returned to Florida and settled in Sanford. He traveled with a large seed company and was President of Florida Audubon Society (FAS) from 1935-1939.

In 1939, he moved to Massachusetts where he became executive director of their state Audubon for nearly 20 years. Mason returned to Florida in 1957 and became Executive Director of FAS with headquarters in Maitland. During the time he was director, there was a campaign for the protection of the bald eagles in Florida.

At the time the article was published in 1966 he was editor of The Florida Naturalist at his Maitland office.

The Zoo

Prior to the mid-1970s Sanford Zoological Park was located on North Park Avenue in downtown Sanford near Lake Monroe where the City Hall is now located.

It then moved west to its present location near the I-4 and Hwy. 17/92 interchange and was renamed Central Florida Zoo. In 1974 there are pictures of Director Jack Hannah visiting Lake Mary Elementary, as well as Idyllwilde Elementary School. (Note: I met him in 1975 while I was teaching at Pine Crest Elementary School in Sanford; he came to speak to the students there. My name was Myra Eisencoff at that time.)

Hannah later became the star of the popular television series, Mutual of Omaha's "Wild Kingdom", one of the best known programs on nature and the animal world.

Also in the scrapbook there is a "thank you" note from the Sanford Zoological Society for Seminole Audubon's donation of \$100.00.

In Memoriam

One of the newspaper clippings was about Allan D. Cruickshank of Rockledge who died in October 1974 at age 67. He was on the staff of the National Audubon Society for 37 years. During most of that time he was the official photographer. He wrote and illustrated numerous bird books and received many honors for his work in ornithology.

Seminole Audubon Society helps with release and tracking of Swallow-tailed Kite "Apopka"



A few Seminole Audubon Society members were able to attend a special release celebration of three Swallow-tailed Kites on July 29th by the Avian Reconditioning Center in Apopka. One, an adult, had been given the name of "Apopka" after having been fitted with a special solar-powered transmitter to enable future monitoring of this particular bird's travels. This unique transmitter operates with a newer cell-phone-based technology designed to provide as many as 12 location pings daily and will operate for up to 7 or 8 years.

The Avian Reconditioning Center gave the honor of releasing "Apopka" to the Mayor of Apopka, Joe Kilsheimer. This bird had been received only about two weeks prior with injuries that subsequently were deemed to be superficial. Thus, it was assessed to be in prime condition to complete its seasonal migration to



Brazil.

With donations pledged at very short notice from a small group of members, Seminole Audubon was able to help fund the initial phases of this project. With the release of "Apopka," it is hoped that this bird's migration and future travels can be followed either via Facebook or by logging into the website operated by the Avian Research and Conservation Institute at www.arcinst.org

Article and photos by Lewis Gray

Upcoming Programs

Unless otherwise noted, our meetings are held on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm in the meeting room of the Seminole County Public Library, North Branch -150 N. Palmetto Ave., Sanford. Meetings are free and open to the public with refreshments and door prize.

Sunday September 10 Fire Ants and their impact on birds



Dr. Joshua King, ecologist and entomologist at the University of Central Florida, will be our guest speaker. Dr. King describes himself as an ant nerd. He has published extensively on the life and impacts of fire ants throughout his career. He received \$15,500. from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida to use his diesel-powered, hot-water apparatus to blast ant nests that encroach on the Florida Grasshopper Sparrows. The future of this sparrow may depend on the hot-water blaster that safely fends off fire ants, which threaten the remaining 100 or so wild sparrows in Central Florida.

Sunday October 8 The Big Sit!

Instead of our regular meeting at the Library, SAS will participate in the 20th annual **BIG SIT!** Sunday October 8th from 7:30 am until 1:00 pm at Lake Jesup Wilderness Area Park (LJWA) in Sanford.

The **Big Sit!** is an international birding competition. This is how it works: find a good spot for bird-watching, create a circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside the circle counting all the bird species you see or hear. Our team, the *Seminole Sitters*, has chosen LJWA as our birding location. In conjunction with the **BIG SIT!**, there will be a **guided nature walk** through LJWA at 10:00 am. Members will be available throughout the day to answer all your birding questions.



Upcoming Trips

Last minute changes do occur, so it is essential that you notify us in advance if you plan to participate in any of our trips. A liability release must be signed.

Trips are open to the public

Ways to Contact Us:

1. www.meetup.com/SeminoleAudubon-com
2. E-mail: seminoleaudubon@gmail.com
3. Sign up at Program Meetings

Thursday September 14 Bug Closet at UCF with Shawn Kelly. Limited to ten participants, 10 am – 11:30 am. Biological Science Building - Room 112

The Bug Closet was officially known as the University of Central Florida Collection of Arthropods and was founded by Stuart Fullerton in 1993. This is one of the largest completely databased collections in the world with over 560,000 specimen records. <http://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/bugcloset/>



This field trip is limited to ten participants. Please bring a \$5 donation. Contact Joy Rector at joy7audubon@aol.com in order to reserve a spot.

Parking passes will be provided.

Map of campus:

<http://map.ucf.edu>

Saturday September 16, Ant Hike with Dr. Zachary Prusak, \$5 donation. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka

We will drive from the Ranger Station to a sandhill site and walk through a variety of habitats while using sorting trays and other collecting equipment to sift through soil. We will investigate rotting logs, searching for various types of insects as well as ants. We will focus on identifying ants by their mound shape and learn about their general ecological roles in nature.
\$5 donation per person requested.

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wekiwa-springs>

Meet in the parking lot of Jo-Ann's near Seminole Towne Center and depart by 8:00 am or meet at the parking lot behind the Main Entrance Station by 8:45 am.

Contact: Joy Rector at joy7audubon@aol.com for more information and/or to sign up.

Friday September 22, Yankee Lake Treatment Facility, Sanford.

This is a guided tour of the protected property that is home to Florida Scrub-Jays. We will meet at 8 am at the facility on Yankee Lake Road.

Saturday October 14, Bio-Bingo, Lyonia Preserve, 2150 Eustace Avenue, Deltona

Join Seminole Audubon Society for the 2nd Annual Bio-Bingo Challenge held this year at Lyonia Preserve in Deltona. Friendly competition is the name of the game while you locate the plants and animals on your bingo card. Play on your own or form a team with your favorite nature buff. Bring hat, sunscreen and snack. Water provided.

Meet in the parking lot of Jo-Ann's near Seminole Towne Center and depart by 8:30 am or meet at the preserve at 9:00 am.



October 15-18 Paynes Prairie and Sweetwater Wetlands

Plans for this multi-day trip to the Gainesville area include visits to the La Chua and Bolen Bluffs trails at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Sweetwater Wetlands Park and the University of Florida Bat Colony. Gainesville wildlife photographer, Roy Herrera, will be our guide for part of the trip. Daily schedule to be determined based on weather and recent sightings. Choose your own accommodations from the many

hotels nearby or walk-in campsites can be reserved at floridastateparks.org/parks/paynes-prairie.

Space is limited. If you are interested in more information or would like to reserve a spot please email Leslie Martin at woodstork.martin@gmail.com. \$25.00 donation includes local guides.

Saturday November 18 Seminole State Forest

Plan ahead for this field trip to Seminole State Forrest in search of Scrub-Jays. More details to follow.



Backyard Birds Class

Tuesday September 26

Did you ever wonder what bird that is, visiting your yard? Eating at your feeder? Drinking and bathing at your birdbath? This information-packed class will focus on frequently seen species and teach basic methods of bird identification.

This class is offered in cooperation with Seminole County Natural Lands Program. It will be held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva Wilderness Area, 3501 County Road 426, Geneva FL 32732 on Tuesday September 26 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Tuition is \$5.00 and can be paid between 1:30 - 2:00 pm. on September 26.

This class will be offered next on Wednesday, November 15.



Annual Butterfly Survey

Seminole Audubon Society members participated in the North American Butterfly Association's Annual 4th of July Count. We surveyed Crystal Lake Preserve (CLP) and a portion of the trail at Black Bear Wilderness Area (BBWA). We were able to document 16 butterfly species and 23 individuals. It was a good day for dragonflies, but most of them went unidentified. We sure could use some assistance next year to help ID the dragonflies.

At CLP we did not see some of the previous surveys. We missed some species to the butterfly list for the spotted Purple. We have thus far

Our highlight of the day was a Red-BBWA. We found it interesting that seen on both properties.



butterfly species we have seen on "regulars", but we added two new property, Ceraunus Blue and Red-documented 22 species at CLP.

banded Hairstreak spotted at Gulf Fritillary was the only species

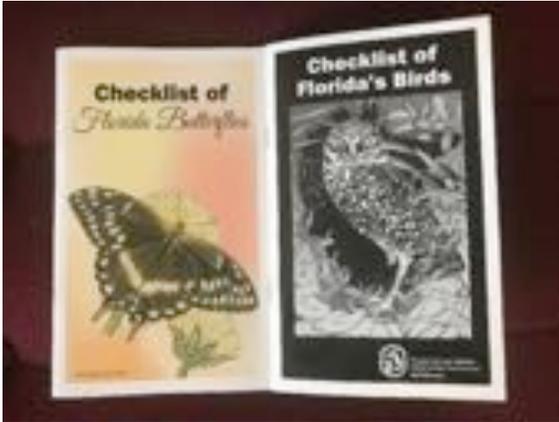
Our gratitude goes to our Count team, Connie Dolan and Faith Jones. We also appreciate all the work Randy Snyder and Mary Keim do compiling and submitting the data for this count.

Being birders at heart, we have to admit the best sighting of the day was a gathering of ten Swallow-tailed Kites seen over the power lines near the St. Johns River on BBWA.

Faith Jones



Wings Over Florida UPDATED Checklists!



Both Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's *Checklist of Florida's Birds* and *Checklist of Florida Butterflies* have been updated (June 2017). Both checklists are available for download from their website: <http://floridabirdingtrail.com/checklists/>. Printed copies, in booklet form, are also available from the same website.

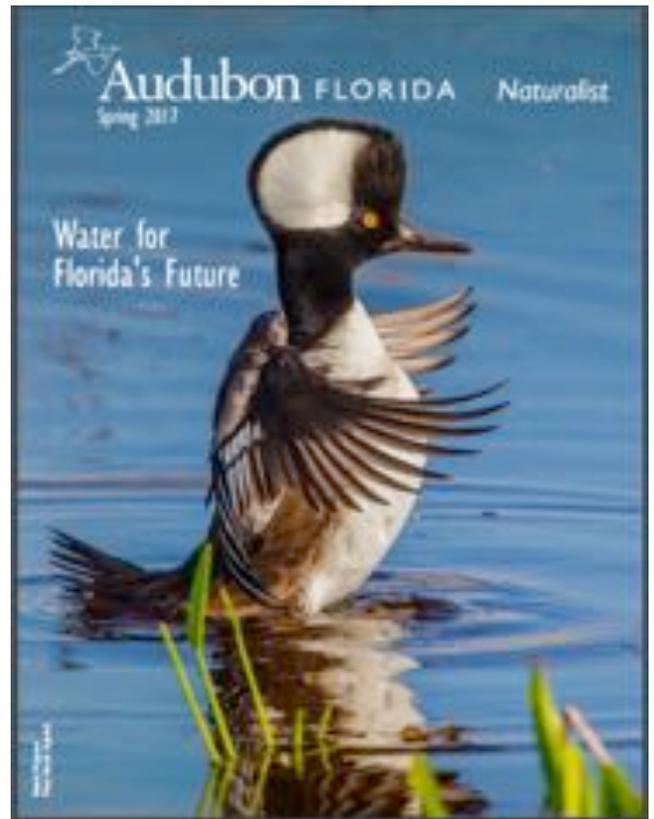
Once you have located and identified the required number of species you can obtain certificates of recognition. You need to know only ten butterflies or fifty birds to qualify for a certificate.

Faith Jones

Seminole Audubon Society Conservation Chair Pam Meharg published in *Audubon Florida, Naturalist*

Seminole Audubon Society's Conservation Chair, Pam Meharg, wrote an important article that was published on page four of the Spring 2017 *Naturalist*. The article, "Land Conservation is the Best Way to Preserve Florida's Water Resources," reminds us of the importance of our water resources and the urgent need to conserve them. Florida voters agreed when they voted to pass the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative (Amendment 1) in 2014. Great article, Pam! If you have not had a chance to read it, here it is:

Water is the elixir of Florida; it brings life to the plants, wildlife, and people that call Florida home. It is the reason why we are surrounded by beautiful ecosystems that support the varied birds and other wildlife that share this magical place with us. But, we are faced with great challenges as we look for ways to provide enough clean water to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population and protect the ecosystems that are supported by our water. While there are many approaches to water conservation, the approach that provides the strongest protection for our water resources is land conservation. This is what voters overwhelmingly approved when they passed the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative (Amendment 1) in 2014.



Forests and wetlands are very effective at moderating the influences of pollution and naturally cleaning pollutants from water. Land conservation is an investment in the future as it steers growth away from sensitive water resources while providing recreational opportunities. Studies show that spending to protect forests, wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas saves money over time as the need for costly water treatment infrastructure is avoided. As Floridians struggle to fix the many problems plaguing our waterways and look for the billions of dollars needed to fund these fixes, we should remember that conserving Florida's special places protects our valuable resources at their source.

Fortunately, Florida has the tools to provide protection for critical lands that protect our water resources. Land conservation programs like the Florida Forever Program and the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program provide the framework and mechanisms needed to protect these valuable lands. And the Water and Land Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1 in 2014) provides the funding. What are we waiting for?

Regional Conservation Committee Objectives

Seminole Audubon Society is a member of the Regional Conservation Committee (RCC) that covers the central Florida area. We attend meetings to work with other chapters in the region to advance projects of a regional nature. Charles Lee of Audubon Florida works with the chapter leaders to help develop strategies and priorities for the region in conjunction with Paula Wehr, the CFL RCC representative on the AF Board of Directors.

Audubon Florida and the Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee believe that advocating for land acquisition in 2017-2018 may best be achieved by identifying specific properties to showcase to legislators rather than asking for approval of a pot of money. Chapter leaders in the CFL RCC are now identifying important properties from the Florida Forever and the Rural and Family lands priority lists. Legislators and decision-makers will be invited to visit these properties to see firsthand why they are special places and why they have economic, ecological and recreational value to their constituents. We believe the legislators then will be more apt to say, "We need to purchase this land (or conservation easement) because it is important to my district's residents and to my priorities."

Charles Lee and chapter leaders from Orange and Kissimmee Valley Audubon have also been advocating alternate expressway routes for the SR 408 extension, Osceola Parkway Extension and the Southport Expressway. In each case, the objective is to steer proposed expressways away from important conservation lands. At risk are conservation lands along the Econlockhatchee River, the Split Oak Mitigation Preserve, and the Disney Wilderness Preserve.

Audubon Eagle Watch

Seminole Audubon participates in several citizen science projects where our volunteers assist scientists in their research. Our volunteers are concerned about our birds and the environment, and choose to help make a difference locally and in some cases, nationally. Anyone can be a citizen scientist—all you need is a passion for nature and for helping the wildlife that calls it home. We are now looking for volunteers to help with Audubon Eagle Watch.

Audubon Eagle Watch seeks information about Bald Eagles, active nest locations and possible disturbances or

threats to nesting activities. The program is designed to educate volunteer participants about eagle nesting biology, applicable laws, the identification of nest threats, monitoring techniques and the verification of previously unrecorded active eagle nesting. The program engages volunteers to help protect our nation's symbol. This is a fun project that generally requires you to visit your assigned nest every two weeks and spend at least 30 minutes observing the activity at the nest. Your observations are then submitted to the Eagle Watch

coordinator. If this sounds like something that you would like to do—please email Shawnlei Breeding at eaglewatch@audubon.org and let her know you would like to help. Hope to see you out there!

Pam Meharg

Put Your Stamp on Conservation

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps", are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today.



Federal Duck Stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Exactly \$.98 out of every \$1.00 generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934 sales of these stamps have raised more than \$950 million to conserve nearly six million acres of wetland habitat.

Understandably, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass to National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged. Duck Stamps are also popular collector items.

Duck Stamps cost \$25, or there is a Junior \$5 version. Duck Stamps are available at many Post Offices, National Wildlife Refuges or online. For more information visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php>

SAS Citizen Science Projects

Purple Martin

By early August the Purple Martins had finished nesting and left the area. It was time to take down the nesting gourds we had installed along Lake Monroe earlier this year. Four of the eight gourds placed near the Marina had been used. We did observe Purple Martins again nesting in a light fixture near the Marina. Hopefully, next season those Purple Martins will choose the gourds over light fixtures.

None of the eight gourds placed at the east end of



Riverwalk were used this nesting season. It is possible that that location has too much human activity for the birds' comfort. We are considering the use of decoys that might attract Purple Martins to that location next year.

We are grateful to Jim and Jan Peters for taking charge of this project.

Florida Scrub-Jay

This summer, twelve SAS members assisted with the Audubon JayWatch program on four properties. SAS members also aided on two properties by marking the JayWatch count points. Members are also assisting with conditioning jays for banding at Blue Spring State Park and Lake Monroe Conservation Area. Although a number of members have been involved, we especially appreciate the dedication of Shirley Reilly and Chuck Honaker to these special birds.

Project Colony Watch – Jane Isle

Since 2001, SAS has participated in Audubon's Colony Watch program monitoring nesting activity of the wading bird colony on Jane Isle in Lake Jesup. Necessarily, such monitoring requires access by boat to a series of points surrounding Jane Isle, from which bird movements to and from the island can be counted in accordance with a defined protocol that minimizes disturbance to avian populations.

Beginning in 2015, SAS has been most grateful for the support of David & Marguerite Terwillweger in donating boating services that have provided the

Faith Jones, Dan Cleary, and Shirley Reilly. Photo by Rosi Mulholland

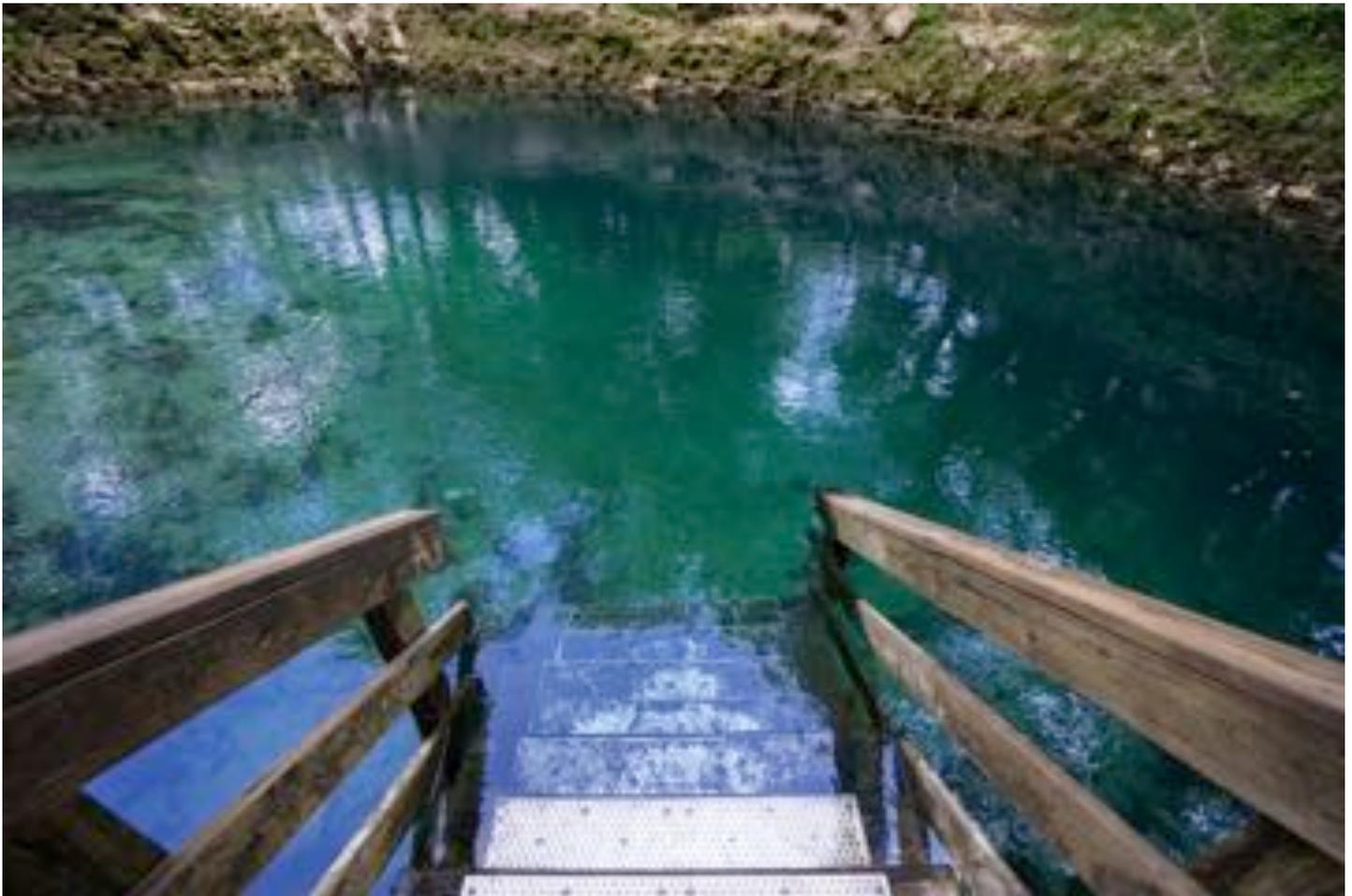
basis for a renewed effort to monitor these nesting activities on a regular basis. Typically, about four visits annually at intervals over a nesting season that extends from January through August have been targeted and had been anticipated in 2017.

Unfortunately, a severe drought that developed during the first half of this year forced a suspension of the Jane Isle surveys during the most active nesting months (late spring to early summer), when lake levels were too low to support the required boating activity. SAS remains optimistic in being able to resume these surveys in January 2018.

Seminole County Natural Lands Bird Surveys

The SAS count team took a break during the summer months, but will resume the surveys at Black Bear Wilderness Area in early September. Thus far we have documented 93 avian species on this property.

2017 Audubon Assembly Water for Florida's Future



Madison Blue Springs State Park

Mark your calendars! Audubon Assembly will be held Oct 20 – 21, 2017, in St Augustine, Florida. Grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources. Lodging will be at Renaissance St Augustine Resort-Marriott.

Visit <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly> to learn more about the schedule and early-bird rates.

Find Us!

If you have bird photos or information of interest to members, please email it to seminoleaudubon@gmail.com.



If you have a Facebook account, please take a few minutes to 'like us' and invite your friends to like us as well.



Follow us on Twitter at: **Seminole Audubon @AudubonSeminole**.



Scan the QR Code below with your mobile device to go to our web site.

BE AN SAS SUPPORTER

Yes, I want to help **Seminole Audubon Society** achieve its mission by contributing toward the Chapter's conservation projects and educational programs.

name: _____

address: _____

city: _____

state: _____ e-mail: _____

zip code: _____

Please accept my contribution of \$ _____

Mail your check to: Seminole Audubon Society P.O.Box 2977 Sanford, FL 32772-2977

Membership Application

For New Audubon Members Only

JOIN for the special rate of \$20.00 for 1 year - that's \$15 off the regular membership dues!

Joining Seminole Audubon Society makes you also a member of Audubon of Florida and the National Audubon Society. Membership benefits include our newsletter *The JAY*, *Audubon Magazine*, and the *Florida Naturalist*. Your membership will help us work for better preservation of the environment for the benefit of all species, including mankind.

Make checks payable to: **National Audubon Society**, and mail with this form to:
Seminole Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2977, Sanford FL 32772-2977

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

If you join elsewhere, please use our Chapter Code: **C7ZE310Z**

Seminole Associate Membership is available to Audubon Society members assigned to other chapters. Make check payable to Seminole Audubon Society. \$10.00 / year

Memberships are good gifts!

The JAY

Seminole Audubon Society
PO Box 2977
Sanford FL 32772-2977

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Calendar of Events

www.seminoleaudubon.org

Program Meetings

are held at 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoons in the Meeting Room of the Seminole County Public Library located at 150 N. Palmetto Ave. in downtown Sanford. Call 407-797-4636 for details.

Sun. Sep. 10

Fire ants and their impact on birds presented by Dr. Joshua King, UCF.

Sun. Oct. 8

Big SIT! Lake Jesup Park, 5951 S. Sanford Ave. Dawn – noon. Guided walk at 10:00 am.

Field Trips

Details and registration information for all of these trips are in this issue of The JAY and on www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com, sarahdonlan42@gmail.com, or 407-687-6087

Thu. Sep. 14

Bug Closet, UCF

Sat. Sep. 16

Ant Hike, Wekiwa Springs State Park

Sat. Oct. 14

Bio-Bingo, Lyonia Preserve

Oct. 15-18

Paynes Prairie & Sweetwater Wetlands

Classes

Tues. Sept. 26

Backyard Birds Class, 2-4 pm, Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva Wilderness Area, 3501 County Road 426, Geneva FL 32732. \$5.00

Crystal Lake Preserve, Lake Mary. Work mornings.

Thu. Sep. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 16. For time and meeting location call 407-323-4506 or email bdenslow@cfl.rr.com

Audubon Assembly, St. Augustine, FL

October 20-21, 2017