

# 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 2015

A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

## Special Places—Gemini Springs



**Photo: Faith Jones**

Many times in life we get so busy that we forget to stop, look, listen and enjoy the treasures that surround us. In this case I am talking about the wonderful parks and recreation areas that are available for our enjoyment in our neighborhood. So, we are going to highlight a park or recreation area in each issue of the Jay this season. This issue we are going to review the marvelous Gemini Springs Park in DeBary, Florida.

The 210-acre Gemini Springs was purchased in 1994 through the combined efforts of Volusia County, The Trust for Public Lands, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Communities Trust. Approximately 6.5 million gallons of sparkling

fresh water bubble up from the two springs each day.

John H. Padgett bought the land around the turn of the century and is believed to have built the two-story farmhouse and barn that are on the property today. The Padgett family raised cattle and grew sugar cane. Gemini Springs was given its name by the Gray family, who raised prize-winning Santa Gertrudis cattle on the property. Under their ownership the earthen dam and reservoir were built, along with the arched bridges, the stone barbeque building and the Spring House.

Today Gemini Springs has a mix of gentle woodland paths, paved trails, playgrounds, picnic tables, a paddling trail, primitive campsites and a dog park. The special feature however is the pair of springs that flow a couple hundred feet to a pond and then a spillway, where they then continue to the marsh and DeBary Bayou. The fishing pier is located at the marsh.

***See Gemini on page 11***

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# WELCOME

**NEW MEMBERS**

**and Members NEW to our Chapter**

Sandra J. Chamberlain	Lake Mary
Angela E. Cotto	Sanford
Mrs. Gallelli	Geneva
Carol Healy	Osteen
Judy Lynch	Lake Mary
Trista Messer	Lake Mary
John T. Meyers	DeBary
Troy Overstreet	Sanford
Anthony Rago	Sanford
Michael Snyder	DeBary

Rosa Soto  
Melissa Souto  
Paula White

Lake Mary  
Lake Mary  
Sanford

## **Seminole Audubon Seeks Web Designer / Web Master**

Seminole Audubon needs a volunteer Web Designer who can help us modernize our web site. The person will work with our Board of Directors to choose from available web design programs that can promote all our birding and conservation activities in an attractive format. This Web Master will also be responsible for updating any text and

images which our various committee chairpersons might provide on a monthly / seasonal basis. An interest in birding is considered a plus. Contact Pam Meharg at [pgmeharg@gmail.com](mailto:pgmeharg@gmail.com).

## New Board Member Lewis Gray

Originally from the UK, where he graduated with an honors degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Loughborough University while being employed in the aircraft industry, favorable opportunities to pursue career interests led Lewis to Philadelphia with Boeing. Readily adapting to life on this side of the Atlantic, it was here that he met and married Carole, with whom he has presently enjoyed nearly 46 years of marriage. Several years later, he transitioned into a 41-year career with Westinghouse (later Siemens) in the power generation business with steam turbine development, where he found rewarding work in contributing to the solution of aerodynamic and related technical challenges.

Although Lewis's interest in birds and wildlife began many years ago, it remained at a casual level in deference to hobbies and other activities such as radio-controlled model airplanes, photography, gardening and home workshop projects. With an offer to transfer with Westinghouse in 1983 to that "renowned cultural center of Orlando" (his words) he relocated to the (then) very rural city of Winter Springs. Subsequently, his interest in birds started to pick up, being inspired by the much greater variety of birds to be seen and heard here in one's own backyard. Common sightings of Pileated Woodpeckers, groups of Bobwhites meandering through the underbrush and incessant nightly calls of Chuck-will's-widows in the springtime were among the most memorable.

Sadly, those times lasted only a few years as the build out of their development displaced wildlife. However, this did create a latent desire to follow a more serious pursuit of birding activities. Upon his retirement in 2013, birding was already high on Lewis's list for being a part of increased leisure time, and this became a reality with enrollment in the Basic Birding class offered by Seminole Audubon in January 2014. Since then, local birding trips on a once-weekly basis have become commonplace, typically using his camera to enhance the birding experience through an ability to resolve

questionable identifications and improve both his birding photography and species recognition skills.



As a newly elected member of the Seminole Audubon Board, Lewis soon found interests in support of conservation activities. Through an early invitation to participate in the ongoing wading bird colony counts at Jane Isle, his own initiative in summarizing an existing wealth of data in a readily understandable format has already received recognition of its value as a basis for future articles in the chapter newsletter.

**Lewis Gray**

## Good News

### Commitment to Forage Fish

Two Seasons ago Cameron Jaggard from the Pew Charitable Trust spoke at our monthly meeting about the decline in forage fish. Small fish like sardines, menhaden, pinfish and others don't receive much conservation attention, but they're vital in the marine food chain as well as food for wading birds. SAS members signed petitions urging action on the problem. Now Cameron reports that the FFWC adopted a resolution in June affirming for the first time the state's commitment to keeping forage fish populations healthy. FFWC agreed to work with interested parties to establish a management plan to sustain these overlooked species. Cameron will provide updates on plan progress.

### 29 Springs' Protection Projects

According to an article in the SJRWMD publication STREAMLINES, 29 springs' protection projects are now under construction or will soon break ground. One project relates to the 21-mile reconstruction of

I-4. Instead of flowing into the Little Wekiva River, the millions of gallons of storm water road runoff will be treated and used as reclaimed water by Altamonte Springs and Apopka. This will reduce groundwater pumping in the Wekiva springshed and keep thousands of pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus out of the river. Reclaimed water projects in Ocala and Volusia County will also reduce groundwater withdrawals near springs.

## **EPA agrees to analyze impacts of Roundup and Atrazine**

In a settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity, the EPA has agreed to analyze the impacts of *Roundup* (aka glyphosate) and *Atrazine* on 1500 endangered plants and animals. The Center has long held that these products are harming both wildlife and people. Up to 80 million pounds of *Atrazine* and 300 million pounds of *Roundup* are used on the landscape each year according to the Center. The World Health Organization has declared *Roundup* a probable human carcinogen. The settlement gives the EPA until 2020 to complete the analysis.

**Sam Kendall**



## **Mark your Calendar for November Backyard Birds Class**

Ever wonder what bird that is, visiting your yard? Eating at your feeder? Drinking and bathing at your birdbath? Focusing on frequently seen species, this class will teach basic methods of bird identification.

This class is offered in cooperation with Seminole County Natural Lands Programs. It will be held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in the Geneva Wilderness Area, 3501 County Road 426, Geneva FL 32732 on Wednesday November 18 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Tuition is \$5.00 and can be paid between 1:30 - 2:00 pm on November 18.

## **Least Terns – Seasonal Visit to the Roof**

What is the cost of staying at a hotel from April 9<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>? Well, thanks to the folks at *Monroe's On The Lake*, the hotel on Marina Island in downtown Sanford, for Least terns it's on the house. Or to be more specific, on the roof.



**Photo: Shirley Reilly**

Seminole Audubon's hard-working team of Citizen Scientists monitored the rooftop from the ground for the length of the Least tern (LETE) visit. We submitted 20 reports to the Florida Shorebird Database not just during the priority count windows, but weekly through the season.

One of the things that makes this a safe rooftop for nesting, a tall edge to keep chicks from falling off, also prohibits us from getting a great view of the activities. So this summer we hired a drone to take some photographs. In one photo we were able to see 7 adults sitting on the gravel, most likely protecting young. One parent started to get visibly agitated at the presence of the drone, so we respected their wishes and will go a different direction to get a closer look next year.

We appreciate the hospitality that is shown by *Monroe's On The Lake*, their manager and employees, and even the guests we encountered poolside or in the parking lot while we monitored. Many were very interested in learning about this



smallest tern species and why it chooses this unusual nesting spot.

We look forward to seeing the Least terns again next April. Hopefully once again they'll see the "Bird Friendly Rooftop" sign in the window!

Leslie Martin

## Seminole Audubon Gets Busy with JayWatch

SAS members are assisting with JayWatch at four locations in Central Florida: Lake Monroe Conservation Area, Buck Lake Conservation Area, Lyonia Preserve, and Blue Spring State Park.

The Florida scrub-jays are very friendly at Lyonia Preserve where one hopped onto Faith Jones' hat to get a better look at a wooden pin. Volunteers help monitor Florida scrub-jay populations. They document the location and colors of the bands if the birds are banded. While in the field our volunteers have also obtained data for the Florida Breeding Bird 2 Atlas and FWC gopher tortoise monitoring program.



SAS JayWatch volunteers enjoy seeing not only Florida scrub-jay, but Northern bob white and red-headed woodpeckers. They also documented what might be the tallest active Eastern bluebird nest in Florida. A female bluebird with fecal sac in her mouth was seen on the branch next to the nest cavity.

# Top Shelf

## Review of Two Books

Way back in May I lined up my "Summer Reading" top shelf with a lot of books that I hoped to read. As yet I have not made it through the line-up but would like to recommend these two:

1. Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from its Friends, Foes, and Florida  
by W. Hodding Carter, copyright 2004
2. Edible, An Adventure into the World of Eating Insects and the Last Great Hope to Save the Planet by Daniella Martin  
copyright 2014

### Stolen Water

In Stolen Water W. Hodding Carter takes the reader on a sometimes riotous, sometimes somber, and at times indignant, journey through America's most controversial, beautifully unapproachable, and abused wilderness -- the Florida Everglades.

In 2000 President Clinton signed into law the \$7.8 billion restoration plan (CERP) that has become the exemplar for America's environmental projects and issues. It was at about this time that W. Hodding Carter found himself intrigued by the state of Florida and decided to investigate what, if any, progress had been made with the Everglades. Toward this end he examined the Everglades from all angles — social, political, cultural, environmental — culminating in an incredible and exciting canoe trip through the "Glades." There are moments of rare beauty and with the turn of a page one is face to face with the reality of the level of destruction and the impossible task of true restoration.

Mr. Carter found himself drawn to exploration of the Glades itself as well as the efforts to restore the river of grass. Through extensive investigative and scientific research, interviews with key players of environmental groups, government agencies and eyewitness accounts, readers are offered hard-hitting facts about the real friends and foes of the area. *Stolen Water* is often controversial, very readable and narrative nonfiction at its best by a talented and funny writer.

Addendum: A lot of water and money have gone to tide (pun intended) since CERP was first introduced as evidenced by the yet again restudy,

but I believe this book is an excellent tool for the average citizen to gain an understanding of the Florida political debacle especially as it functions, or doesn't function, concerning water issues as well as a beautiful and accurate portrait of the Everglades ecosystem from top to bottom.

## **Edible**

How about instead of: Beef is for dinner! We say Insects! They're what's for dinner! Oh boy I can hear the collective "Ugh" as I sit here typing. But wait a minute let's take a serious look at entomophagy the practice of eating insects, especially by people.

Daniella Martin is passionate about teaching people that insects are the most environmentally-efficient animal protein on the planet as well as a fabulous food source that can help solve world hunger. She became fascinated with entomophagy while doing anthropological fieldwork in the Yucatan and living amongst the Maya. She learned that ancient peoples of this region used to supplement their diets with insects. Intrigued, she began her research in earnest and so far has eaten a large variety of insects. Her favorites are waxworms, bees, wasps and fried bamboo worms.

Daniella takes us on an excursion to the front lines of this global food movement and no matter how you feel about bugs I believe *Edible* will radically change the way you think about the world food crisis. The book includes illustrations and instructions on how to raise your own herd of edible insects at home.

**DonnaLea Needham**

# **Program Notes**

## **Fun time with Bird Trivia**

An American Oystercatcher can be identified by its large bill of what color? Which of North America's two species of Pelicans is larger? What member of the Heron family is the Audubon Society's symbol?

Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> started the 2015--2016 SAS program season with a lively game of *Bird Trivia*. Four teams battled for the title.

All players received a pocket notebook to keep track of birds in the field or at their backyard feeder.

**Leslie Martin**

# **Upcoming Programs**

## **Sept. 13, 2015      The 9 Principles of a Florida-friendly Yard**

Taryn Sudol, Florida-Friendly Landscape UF-IFAS Extension agent for Seminole County will let us know what we need to do to have and maintain a yard that is not only beautiful, but will conserve and protect our natural resources.

Taryn grew up in Orlando, exploring central Florida parks as well as her own backyard. She studied Environmental Science with minors in Sustainable Studies and English at the University of Florida then went on for her Master's of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland. She has completed internship programs for Disney's ECOT Plant Science, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the United States' Wilderness Fellowship. Taryn still enjoys exploring natural lands and keeping nature in suburbia. As the FFL Agent in Seminole County, one of her favorite classes to teach is "Backyard Habitats."



## **Oct. 11, 2015      THE BIG SIT!**

Instead of our regular program and meeting, SAS will participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual BIG SIT! Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Come join the fun under the beige canopy.

In conjunction with the BIG SIT!, there will be a guided nature walk through LJWA at 9:00 am. Members will be available throughout the day to answer all your birding questions.

John and Jimye Kaye Russell will share photographs from their mountain retreat in Western Maine. Our co-president, Leslie Martin, will share with us about her experiences at Hog Island Audubon Camp.

## Upcoming Field Trips

Please read carefully for times and car-pool information. If you have questions, please email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com)

**Saturday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – Gemini Springs** – Meet in the west parking lot of Gemini Springs Park at 8:30 am or if car-pooling, meet at Jo-Ann Fabric parking lot, 120 N Entrance Rd, Sanford, at 8:00 am. It is suggested that participants bring bug repellent, sunscreen, water, hat, comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, camera, and bird guide/book. Our past field trips there have all provided great water bird shows because of all the native minnows & fish so abundant around the spillway. Fabulous numbers & kinds of warblers & other songbirds are in the big oak trees in the picnic area and along the grassy lane following the long pond edge of the open marshlands. More details are in this issue under "Special Places." Bring lots of curiosity about Gemini Springs and super enthusiasm for seeing all the birds & wildlife that are there. Waivers will be signed before the nature walk begins.

**Thursday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – Mead Botanical Garden** – 1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park

Meet: Jo-Ann Fabrics parking lot, 120 N Entrance Rd, Sanford, if you wish to car-pool. We will leave Jo-Ann's sharply at 8:30 am or meet us at Mead Garden by 9 am.

This garden has a reputation for being a stopover spot for migrating warblers and we hope to see a few species. We will walk the boardwalk and nature trail. The garden includes a Legacy Garden, Butterfly Garden, and Native Plant Garden. [www.meadgarden.org](http://www.meadgarden.org)

**Friday, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> – Circle B Bar Reserve** – Guided tram tour - 4399 Winter Lake Rd, Lakeland, FL.

Meet: For car-pooling we will leave Jo-Ann Fabrics, 120 N Entrance Rd, Sanford, at 7:30 am. The traffic on I-4 is usually terrible at this hour, so 417 is suggested. It is a toll-road. We will meet at the

Nature Discovery Center at 9:00 am, which is when it opens. The guided tram tour will begin at 9:30 am. We are limited to 25 people for this field trip, due to seating capacity on the tram.

The Circle B Bar Reserve, on the northwest shore of Lake Hancock, is a former cattle ranch that today boasts a wide variety of plants and animals. We will see several distinct ecosystems on this reserve of only 1,267 acres. Expect to see alligators in Lake Hancock, often considered the headwaters of the Peace River, which flows more than 100 miles from Polk County southwest to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Saturday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> - Lake Apopka North Shore** – parking limited. Please see info below.

Due to restricted parking at Lake Apopka, carpooling is highly recommended and helps to make for a compact group. We will be driving on a one-way lime-rock trail and making a series of intermittent stops along the way at points of interest. For this purpose, please meet in the parking lot in front of Kohl's & Dollar Tree, located in the NW quadrant of the intersection between Rts 434 and 436. Please arrive by 8:00 am for trip registration and consolidation of vehicles.

Lake Apopka: North Shore Wildlife Drive:

The Lake Apopka North Shore comprises former farmlands in an area where major restoration activities by the St. Johns River Water Management District have been conducted over the past 15 years or so. This has included marsh and floodplain restoration with the objective of cleansing Lake Apopka's waters and returning the lake water to its former clarity.

This area is widely known for its bird populations. In the 1998 annual one-day Christmas Bird Count, an identified total of 174 species remains as the highest total for an inland count in the CBC's 115-year history. The number of bird species seen here continues to grow, with an eBird checklist that currently stands at 242.

First opened to vehicular traffic in May 2015, the Wildlife Drive runs along a portion of the former farm fields. It primarily borders old irrigation canals, but includes the option to follow a short stretch of the lakeshore Loop Trail. It forms a 9-mile, one-way drive that begins at Lust Road and ends on Jones Road in Orange County, FL. The drive is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays between sunrise and sunset. A number of "pull over" areas provide visitors with a convenient opportunity to stop along the drive and observe various wetland and lakeside habitats. Before exiting, there is also a section of the drive that

borders some upland habitats and remaining farmland (sod fields).

# Jane Isle Update

As reported in the last newsletter, a small group of Seminole Audubon members making an exploratory visit to Jane Isle early in May saw continued favorable activity by wading birds that have traditionally nested on Jane Isle, despite observed changes in vegetation since the last formal count made in 2013. With an expressed desire by Seminole Audubon to re-institute the formalized counts that began in 2001, two such surveys have since been made. Both counts were enabled through the generosity of David and Marguerite Terwilleger in offering the use of their flats boat, ably captained by David on both occasions. The first count took place early in June, at a time when nesting activity is commonly near its peak. The second occurred in late July, typically near the close of nesting season.



As used for all formal surveys conducted by Seminole Audubon since 2006, a Flight-Line counting protocol was selected. As published by Audubon of Florida, this method satisfies the need to avoid any disturbance of nesting activities. It also recognizes that a direct count of nesting pairs (a basic object of such a survey) is impractical in cases where many of the target birds nest at elevations below the tree canopy and would not be visible except at very close range from locations on the island. In accounting for typical nesting habits of wading birds with regard to needs for the parental foraging and feeding of nestlings and new fledglings, this protocol counts only those birds flying to and from (but not within or over) the colony in a given total period of observation, usually 1 hour. Subject to certain limitations, including weather

and time of day, it is accepted as the basis for a reasonable estimate of the number of nesting pairs.

As practiced at Jane Isle, observations are made from designated stationary points, each being centrally positioned within three sectors surrounding Jane Isle. Each point, defined by specific GPS coordinates, is no closer than about 1000 ft. from the island. Essential details of this counting protocol are included in an illustrated summary at the end of this article.

Armed with a map, GPS coordinates and data sheets for entering each count, an intrepid team of seven set off under clearing skies and summertime heat for the first count early on the morning of June 6. After passing under the Rts. 415 and 46 bridges, the first observation point was reached after making a high speed dash across Lake Jesup. Having no prior exposure to this counting protocol, I elected to act as scribe, deferring to those having some prior experience with birds and keen eyes for the task of making the calls. Starting at a respectable pace with calls such as "3 White Ibis flying in" (towards Jane Isle), I would duly enter the count in the appropriate data sheet box against the species and flight direction. Before long, calls from our primary spotters (Faith, Leslie, Marguerite and Ken) often degenerated into an abbreviated format (such as "5 White In", "2 Cattle Out", "3 Snowy In") as the counts at times came in rapid succession, and sometimes even simultaneously. Challenged to keep an accurate count, I frequently had to keep my head down, working the data sheet entries while maintaining a keen ear. Only after returning to dry land was it realized by all that a staggering total of 1771 birds had been counted in that 1-hour period, a record for Jane Isle counts since 2001.



Some pictures are included, with credits due to **Sarah Donlan**, who acted as the team photographer on this venture. Basic results follow



for both counts. As may be inferred, the second trip was much more relaxed, reflecting the fast approaching close of nesting season activities for this year.

**Lewis Gray**

# Hog Island Audubon Camp

In June I had an incredible experience! I attended *Joy of Birding* at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine.

We started each morning, after the 4:55 am sunrise, with a 5:45 am bird walk. Days were filled with workshops and field trips, both on land and sea. Some of the fascinating workshops I attended included "Bird Song" with John Pumilio, "Raptor Identification and The Art of Pishing" with the very entertaining Pete Dunne, and "Bird-Friendly Communities and Seabird Restoration" with the remarkable Dr. Stephen Kress, Director of the Seabird Restoration Program and founder of Project Puffin.

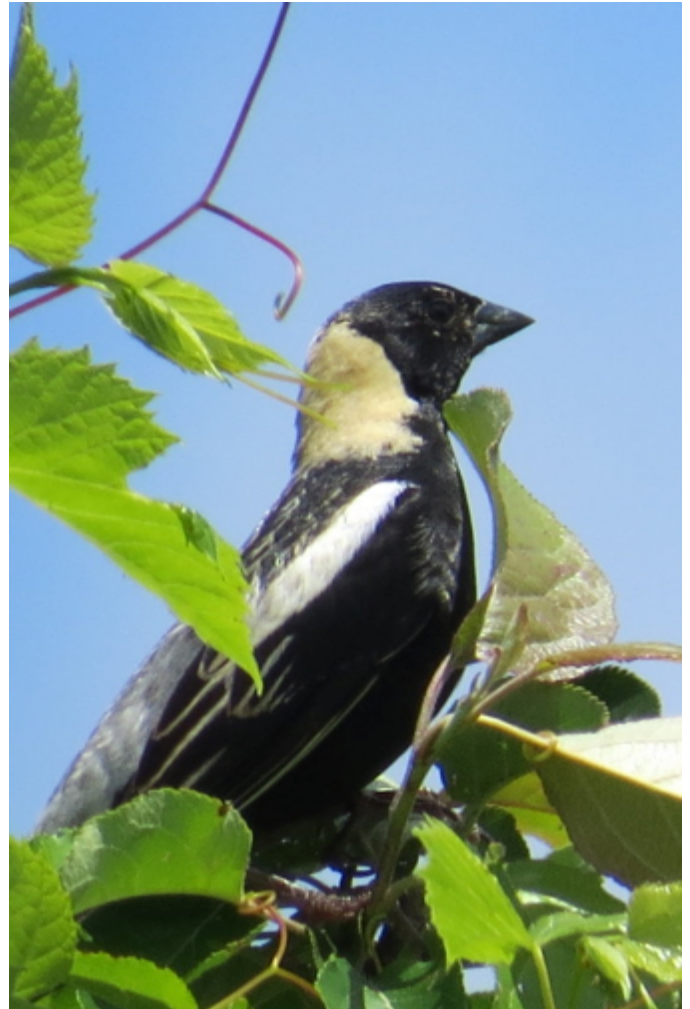


A cruise around the harbor started off our field trips. A land trip included birding in a neighborhood in the town of Medomak, which we learned from our instructors was a favorite birding spot of Roger Tory Peterson! A visit to Great Salt Bay Farms included a picnic lunch and a chance to see large numbers of male Bobolinks in breeding plumage.

But, of course, the highlight of the week was our boat excursion to Eastern Egg Rock to see the Atlantic Puffins. The sea was rough, so I did not

return home with great photos. But I returned with great memories of having seen many Atlantic Puffins, Black Guillemots, a Great Cormorant, and my favorites, the Common, Arctic and Roseate terns.

I can't promise any long-time birders will have the success that I had, but I was able to identify 27 birds to add to my life list on this trip, 4 of them on the quarter-mile boat trip to the island on the first day!



**Male Bobolink**

A big thank you National Audubon Society and Seminole Audubon Society for the scholarships. If given the chance to attend a Hog Island camp, never pass it up! It was a week I will never forget.

**Leslie Martin**

**Help us reach our goal:  
Like Us!**

Seminole Audubon has a group of followers on Facebook, but we want more! A lot more! One of

our goals this year is to increase our exposure through social media. If you have a Facebook account, please take a few minutes to 'like us' and invite your friends to like us as well. If you have bird photos or information of interest to members, please email it to [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com). Also, follow us on Twitter at: Seminole Audubon @AudubonSeminole.

## It's Not Only About Birds— Butterflies “Count” Too

SAS members participated in the Wekiva River 4th of July Butterfly Count as part of the North American Butterfly Association's International Count. The Wekiva River Butterfly Count uses the same count circle as the Wekiva Christmas Bird Count. We surveyed Crystal Lake Preserve where 21 butterflies, representing 10 species, were identified. We were able to add Red-banded Hairstreak to the list of species SAS has documented on the property. Our complete results were:



4 Black Swallowtail  
1 Giant Swallowtail  
2 Spicebush Swallowtail  
1 Cloudless Sulphur  
1 Red-banded Hairstreak  
1 Zebra Heliconian  
1 Monarch  
4 Queen  
3 Horace's Duskywing  
3 Ocala Skipper

**Faith Jones**

## Bird Bits

How high can birds fly? Do all birds build nests?  
How do birds navigate? What's The best recipe for

Hummingbird nectar? What bird lays the largest egg? Interesting questions! Do you have questions about birds you would like to have answered? Send your questions to [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com) and we will do our best to answer your questions during one of our monthly meetings/programs.

## Seminole Audubon Enjoys Another Broken Egg

Group outings are enjoyed whether they are about birds or about eggs and Seminole Audubon enjoyed the latter on Thursday, August 13. Thirteen members met at the *Another Broken Egg Restaurant* in the Heathrow area of Lake Mary to sample the eatery's new menu and to help them practice for their grand opening on Monday, August 17th.



Complimentary fare was enjoyed by all. The restaurant staff was very accommodating and the food, from appetizer to drinks was done to perfection. Surprisingly, everything on the menu, crab, lobster, sausage, and excellent eggs benedict in many forms was available to us. Louisiana-style richness shines through. We send our gratitude to the restaurant and staff and will return again soon. We had a wonderful time.

**Sarah Donlan**

## Baseball, Hot dogs, Beverages, and Fun!

Seminole Audubon members gathered July 23<sup>rd</sup> for our second annual baseball outing at the Sanford



Memorial Baseball field. It was wonderful to meet new members and new potential members as we cheered for the Rats, enjoyed extra-long hot dogs, discount-priced beverages, and chatting. Some members volunteered at our table out front to provide information about SAS. As an extra bonus



Photo: Leslie Martin

to our evening, the River Rats shut out the Lightning, with 9 runs on 12 hits.  
**Marguerite Terwilleger**

## Gemini from page 1

The beautiful Gemini Springs is perfect for canoeing, hiking, birding or just sitting around doing nothing but enjoying the peaceful ambiance. We hope you stop by for a visit soon or join the SAS field trip on Sept. 19.

See Upcoming Trips in this issue for details.  
**Pam Meharg**



Photo: Faith Jones

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



## 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!

When you join Seminole Audubon Society you also become a member of Audubon of Florida and the National Audubon Society. Your membership benefits include our newsletter *The JAY*, *Audubon Magazine*, and the *Florida Naturalist*. Most importantly, 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 and e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you join elsewhere, please use our Chapter Code:  
**C5ZE310Z**

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

**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](http://www.seminoleaudubon.org)

**PROGRAM MEETINGS** are held at 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoons at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 320 S Park Ave, Sanford. Call 407-797-4636 for details.

Sun Sept 13 **The 9-Principles of Florida Friendly Yards.** Taryn Sudol, Florida-Friendly Landscape UF-IFAS Extension agent for Seminole County will let us know what we need to do to have and maintain a yard that conserves & protects our natural resources.

Sun Oct 11 **Big SIT!** Lake Jesup Park, 5951 S Sanford Ave. Dawn – noon. Guided walk at 9:00 AM.

Sun Nov 8 **Birds of Maine.** The Russells will share photos of birds of Maine while Leslie Martin tells us about her experiences at Hog Island Audubon Camp this summer.

**FIELD TRIPS** Details about the field trip (time to meet, parking, car-pooling, registration, etc.) for all of these trips are in this issue of The JAY and on [www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com](http://www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com). Information on where to meet and car-pooling Questions? Please email [seminoleaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubon@gmail.com).

Sat Sept 19 **Gemini Springs**

Thurs Sept 24 **Mead Botanical Garden**

Fri Oct 2 **Circle B Bar Reserve**-Max of 25 for guided tram tour!

Sat Oct 17 **Lake Apopka North Shore**

**CRYSTAL LAKE PRESERVE**, Lake Mary. Work mornings.

Thu. Sep. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12. (subject to change due to weather, etc.) Please contact: 407-323-4506 or [bdenslow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:bdenslow@cfl.rr.com) for time and meeting location.

## OTHER EVENTS

Oct 2-4 **Lake County Wings and Wildflowers Festival**

Oct 23-24 **Audubon State Assembly**

Nov 7 **Seminole County Natural Lands Anniversary – Geneva Wilderness Center**