

The JAY

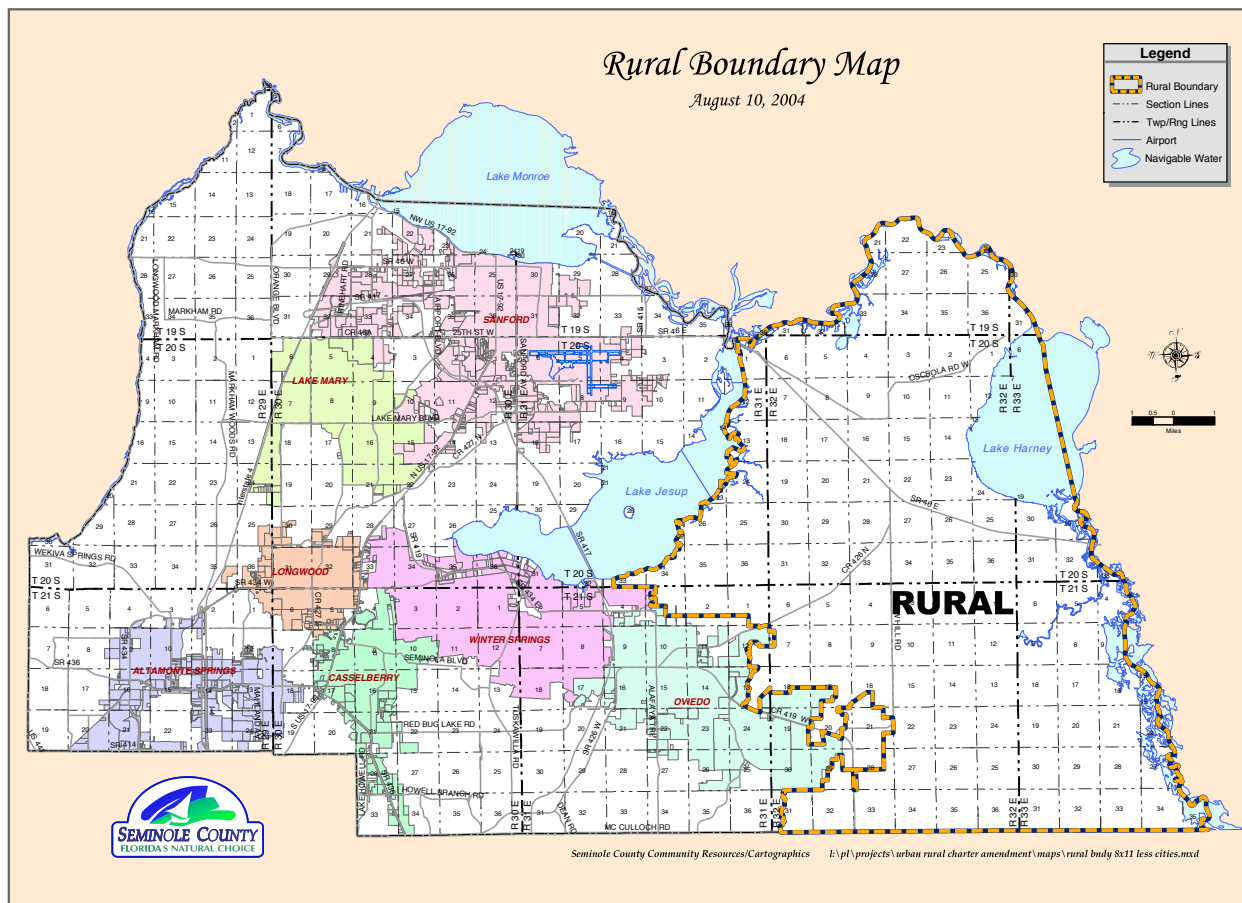
The mission of the Seminole Audubon Society is to promote awareness and protection of the plants and animals in the St. Johns River basin in order to sustain the beneficial coexistence of nature and humans.

June – July – August 2018

A Publication of Seminole Audubon Society

Rural Boundary Update

Seminole County, Florida's Natural Choice, is home to an exceptional number of environmental jewels. The Wekiva, Econlockhatchee, and St. Johns Rivers provide respite to us as we look to



The purpose of the Rural Boundary Amendment was to maintain the current densities and intensities in the rural area, establish a rural boundary and rural area in the Home Rule Charter, and create a system of checks and balances as Seminole County planned for the explosive

growth anticipated in the central Florida area. The rural areas allow for large lot, rural residential escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Our parks and open lands of eastern Seminole County provide protection to our valuable waterways and wildlife, as well as providing numerous opportunities to recreate in those areas. The citizens of Seminole County have long recognized the value of preserving the sensitive environmental areas of Seminole County and have adopted numerous measures to protect these resources. One of the most important steps taken was the adoption of the Rural Boundary Amendment to the County Charter in 2004. and agricultural use, provide a rural lifestyle to our citizens, limit the cost of public services, create opportunities for passive recreational facilities and protect environmentally sensitive lands.

The Florida House attempted to circumvent the wishes of Seminole County voters when they introduced several amendments to HB 883 this last legislative session that would have changed the Seminole County Home Rule Charter as adopted by the citizens. The measure failed as it was not supported by the Florida Senate, but the development interests that were behind the attempt have now proposed a large development in the area protected by the Rural Boundary Amendment and the Seminole County Comprehensive Plan. This development would include 520 single-family homes, 270 townhouses, 500 apartments, 80 estate homes, and 1.5 million square feet of commercial space on 670 acres located in pastureland east of the Econ, west of CR 419 and north of the Orange County line. The proposed development borders the Econ River and is also located within the Econ River Protection Area. Plans include adding another bridge across the Econ River.

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has the right to change the boundaries of the rural area by an affirmative, simple majority vote and approve this development in the heart of rural Seminole County. We have called on the BCC to oppose this plan as its approval would undermine the protections afforded the natural resources within the boundary and open other rural areas to high intensity development. We urge our members and all interested parties to call or email their County Commissioners and ask them to protect our Rural Boundary and vote to oppose the River Cross development. It is the natural choice for those who live in Seminole County, Florida's Natural Choice.

Pam Meharg

New Board Member Phyllis Hall



Phyllis Hall has background in healthcare, corporate training and quality. Since retirement she has been active with various volunteer activities including serving on the board of Orange Audubon the Regional Conservation Committee. Since she lives in Seminole County, she transferred to SAS in 2017 and has worked on conservation issues and served as Community Outreach Coordinator. For the past five years, Phyllis has been a volunteer at Wekiva Basin Bird Banding Station at Lake Lotus.

We welcome Phyllis to our Seminole Audubon Society Board of Directors!

2017-2018
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/17)
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seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

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WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
& NEW to OUR CHAPTER

Clark Anderson
Alice and Lee Armstrong
Alice Bamberger
Buster's Bistro
Paul Cappetta
Cecelia Carey
Barbara Cooley
John Corbitt
Shelley DelRocco
Caroline Forwood

Winter Park
Winter Springs
Oviedo
Sanford
Lake Mary
Winter Springs
Lake Mary
Winter Springs
Lake Mary
Lake Mary

Sharon Griffin
Mima Guthrie
Mary A Hill
Randall Hitchcock
Doreen Licitra
Margaret Loring
Amy Luek
Frances M Keeney
Cathy C. Matthews
Michael Montel
Leslie Moore
Gerald Myers

Deltona
Deltona
Lake Mary
Sanford
Winter Springs
Winter Springs
Chuluota
Deltona
Oviedo
Lake Mary
Sanford
Sanford

Gerard O'Keefe
Theresa Ossler
Marshall Rawson
M. Fran Riggins
Mike Russell
Robert S. Smith
Robert Sperry
Barbara Ann Thornton
Stephen D Turner
Stephan Walker
Jo Ellen Willink

Longwood
Apopka
DeLand
Casselberry
DeBary
Sanford
Deltona
Longwood
Sanford
Winter Springs
Sanford

SAS History 1975 – 1977

Summarized from Minutes and other SAS records
8th in a series by Myra Eisencoff Platel

Meetings were held at the Florida Power and Light (FPL) Building on Myrtle Avenue in Sanford, in members' homes, or at Audubon House in Maitland. Attendance averaged eighteen to twenty-eight people. In October 1977, the total membership was reported to be 103. Meetings included a flag salute and devotions. Field trips were also conducted.

Langley Adaire gave the program for the January 1975 meeting. He represented the Pollution Control Board whose projects included solid waste, water and air pollution. The 75th Anniversary of the Audubon Society was observed at the State Convention in Orlando January 30 - February 1, 1975.

In the spring of 1975 a search of Audubon land grants was made at the Seminole County Courthouse, but none was found at that time.

Eva Hunt, President, reported in October 1975 on her attendance at the Florida Ornithological Society meeting in Titusville. She also reported on the current Bird Study classes taught by Ira Weigley, which are sponsored by Seminole Junior College.

Note: The name of the College was subsequently changed to Seminole Community College and is now Seminole State College.

Doris Mager gave a talk on Birds of Prey in November 1975. She had several birds with her that had been injured and were being rehabilitated.

In February 1976, nuclear energy was thought to be the answer to the fuel shortages. Hence, the program that month was by William Sanders of FPL and titled "Nuclear Power – The Viable Alternative". This is a prime example of "the best science at the time", as our knowledge of nuclear power has certainly changed.

The St. Johns River

In the spring of 1976, there was much emphasis on the condition of the St. Johns River. Mr. J.T. Turnipseed, President of the Friends of the St. Johns, Inc., spoke of the declining river. He cited noticeably less water, a decrease in the number of birds, dying vegetation, and declining numbers of fish. He urged our members to contact State officials. The Board directed the Corresponding Secretary to write to Governor Reubin O. Askew as well as our State Senators and Representatives to urge them to implement efforts to save the St. Johns River. At the next meeting, she reported receiving answers from her letters. A meeting was also held with the Seminole County Commissioners regarding this issue.



At the May 1977 meeting, Mr. Hugh Paine gave a report from the Friends of the St. Johns, Inc. The State had recently acquired a vast tract of land in eastern Orange County. A dam needed to be removed to restore the natural flow of the water to the river. He reported that millions of gallons of water from the St. Johns River were being diverted to the Indian River.

Cross Florida Barge Canal

In late 1976, there were efforts to resume work on the Cross Florida Barge Canal, which was being discussed among legislators and government officials. Several SAS members had written to the Governor and Florida Cabinet regarding related environmental issues.

The first half of 1977 saw continued

correspondence opposing this project. At the February meeting, Mrs. Harold Bentley read a letter from Bill Gunter, Florida State Treasurer, in reply to her letter concerning the Barge Canal. He stated that he had voted against continuing work on the canal. He stated that he had voted against continuing work on the canal.

Note: Bill Gunter lived in this area and was well known and respected.

Into the spring members continued opposition to the canal as there was pressure to re-start work on extending it. SAS sent a resolution to area newspapers asking that work on the canal be permanently stopped and that the Ocklawaha River be restored, as much as possible, to its natural state.

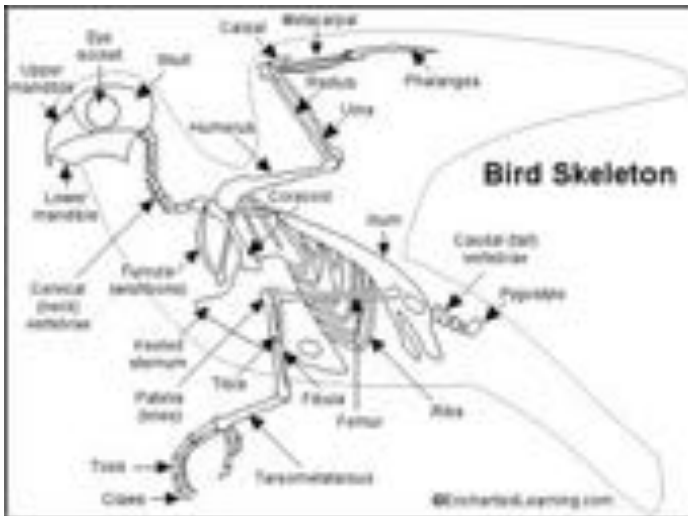
Miscellaneous

At the April 1977 meeting, President Eva Hunt, asked members to write U.S. President Jimmy Carter commending him for taking steps to restrict dams on rivers and other projects that damage the environment.

A Little Help from His Friends



Adapting to the worst of circumstances, this young Sandhill Crane has been in our neighborhood for many months. We don't know the sex for certain, but I will assume it is a male for the purpose of this story. We don't know how he was injured. At first about 8 other cranes accompanied him. They were extremely patient with him and gathered around in protection. One leg had been practically severed just below the "knee"* and was dangling there. Eventually it fell off and the shattered end seemed to heal. Daily he would forage in the area with the other cranes, and when necessary would flap his wings to propel himself to whatever nearby location he wanted to go. He also is able to compensate by lowering down his good leg to ankle* level when he wants to forage in one spot on the ground. In the late afternoon he flies off with the flock to their safe area and comes back in the morning.



Lately, as he has gotten stronger, he stands on his good leg for long periods of time and unless you really know what to look for, you would not notice his disability. He even appears to have a mate who stays in attendance. With just a little help from his friends he has a normal life.

Sarah Donlan

*What looks like his "knee" to us humans is really his ankle. A bird's knee is actually in his body. See the attached picture of a bird skeleton.

Additional information:

According to a Florida licensed wildlife rehabilitation hospital, "certain situations are simply not conducive to intervention. For instance, Sandhill Cranes are notorious for leg injuries. But cranes with broken legs typically can

still fly; thus capture is virtually impossible. Additionally, treatment for leg fractures is only successful immediately after the initial injury. After only a couple of days, tissue damage is so great that it cannot be repaired. On the fortunate side, we know of many cranes with leg impairments who are living successful lives without treatment."

Follow this link for information on Florida Sandhill Cranes and the State laws that pertain to them.

<http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/wildlife/sandhill-cranes/>

Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators:

If you find an injured animal that needs assistance, use this link to find the list of licensed rehabbers.

<http://myfwc.com/media/2779805/licensedwildliferehabilitatorsbyregion.pdf>

Audubon Eagle Watch



My first eagle-nesting season is now complete. The nest I was monitoring fledged a magnificent eaglet in March. I have experienced the excitement of seeing an eaglet raise its tiny head over the nest for the first time and watched as it matured and began to exercise its wings in preparation for flight. This experience leaves me eagerly anticipating next season.

Eagle Watch is in need of a few observers in the fall. If you are interested in participating, there will be training offered in September or early



October. After the training, the nests will be assigned and you are expected to visit it on a bimonthly basis. While there, you will collect data and report to Eagle Watch using a simple web-based system. It is also important to be aware of and report any disturbances of the nests to the appropriate authorities. The season typically runs from mid-October until April or May when the eaglets fledge. If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with, you can contact Shawnlei Breeding, the Eagle Watch manager at eaglewatch@audubon.org and request to be notified when the training is available.

As this season concludes I would encourage anyone to join the volunteers next season and get out in nature to observe the miracle that few people will ever have the privilege or joy to witness.

Michelle Vaughn

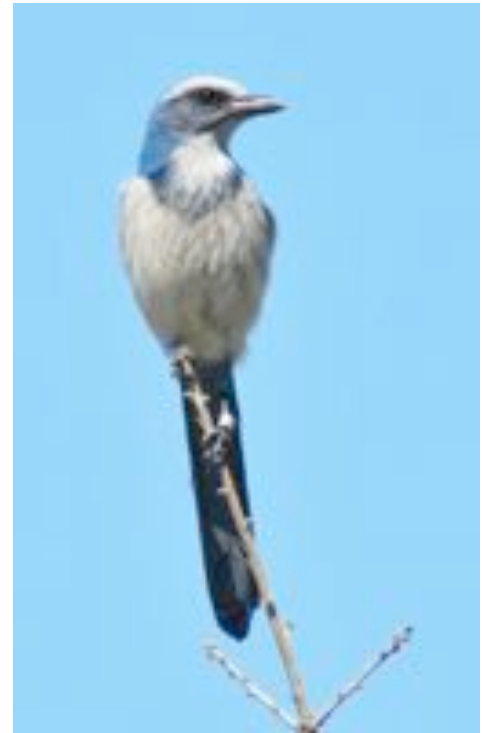
Seminole Scrubbers



The Seminole Scrubbers group, (not to be confused with house cleaners), was begun in May of 2015 after the Jay Watch training at Lyonia Preserve in Deltona. Five Seminole Audubon Society members volunteered to help Rosi Mulholland and Maria Zondervan, Land Managers from St. Johns River Water Manager District, to study, watch and entice the Florida Scrub-Jays at Lake Monroe Conservation Area into cages for banding. The five members who signed on for this project are, Faith Jones, Jane Miller, Marty Shepherd, Pam Meharg and Shirley Reilly.

The dauntless Five, Rosie and Maria sloshed through the first two seasons on isolated roads in the LMC Area chasing, hunting and recording our sightings of the Scrub-Jay families. Sometimes the roads were underwater or the weather was hot and buggy; the winters could be windy and biting cold, but that didn't stop us. The old Chevy Tahoe held up, scratched and bruised from the brush.

We named our banded Jays as we got to know them but it was very difficult to talk them into the open traps. These birds live in an isolated area and had not been socialized or fed by humans. We were finally given permits to "condition" the Scrub-Jays and we began to have success the next year or so since we could now use peanuts and traps opened at both ends. The Scrub-Jays decided they liked peanuts and looked forward to seeing us. In fact they loved my car horn and came flying in for their treat!



Rosie Mulholland named two of the Jays "The Brats" because they were so elusive. Sometimes, they'd sit in the tree and stare at us and often, they would swoop down for their treats as we drove away. It became a brain game. We'd slam the truck doors and climb in, after cleaning up all of the peanuts. "The Brats" looked

surprised. Finally in March of this year, Maria and I caught these "Brats", banded them and gave them new names: "Arby" whose bands are Red/Blue and "Opal", Orange/Purple. We missed getting "Charly" since they all started nest building and we had to stop conditioning them. This local band of Seminole Scrubbers deserves a cheer for trying to preserve our Florida Scrub-Jays. Just don't ask this group to clean your house! **Shirley Reilly**

Spring Outreach Events

Seminole County Gardening Expo was held on March 3rd at the UF/IFAS Extension offices in Seminole County. We had about 100 visitors to our table with a lot of interest in SAS meetings and field trips. Thanks to

our volunteers: Marguerite Terwilleger, Phyllis Hall and Pam Meharg, who also presented a talk on planting to attract birds and pollinators.

Earth Week Outreach Events

SAS participated in 5 Earth Day events over a two-week period with approximately 340 visitors to our table! Thanks to all our volunteers: Johny Blount, Cecilia Carey, Seminole College student Aislin Cerron, Joy Rector, Pam Meharg, Leslie Martin and Marty Shepherd who helped spread the word about SAS membership, meetings, field trips and conservation efforts as well as provide education about birds. We collaborated with the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, which provided educational materials on the Audubon Florida initiative for water conservation.

Details on each event:



SAS had a table at two **Seminole College Earth Week events**. On April 18 we were at the Sanford campus. Thanks to Johny Blunt for helping there and to student volunteer Aislin Cerron. Johny created a bird tree with singing birds that attracted students to our table. We also had a table at the Oviedo campus on April 19. Thanks to Cecilia Carey for volunteering at that event. We had about 75 students total with great interaction and interest in Audubon. We received a thank you note from the environment club advisor, Dr. Debra Socci, stating that the students learned a lot from us; they appreciate all that we do to protect birds and our beautiful local ecosystems.

At **LESA (Lawton Environmental Study Area)** at **T.W. Lawton Elementary** in Oviedo on April 20th, we had about 100 students and parents come to our table. Thanks to volunteer Joy Rector who created a full-sized silhouette of a bald eagle, which everyone could compare his or her own "wing span" to. The bird banding bracelets were a great success. Thanks to Pam Meharg for purchasing and training us on using those materials.

Seminole Audubon Society was represented at **Lake Lotus Earthfest** on April 22nd in Altamonte Springs. Thanks to volunteers Pam Meharg, Cecilia Carey, and Leslie Martin, who were real troopers braving the wet day. Even with rain, attendance was surprisingly good with about 65 people stopping by our display. Inquisitive visitors expressed lots of interest in SAS activities and how people can help birds. Pam even signed up a new member on the spot!

Earth Fest Casselberry was held on April 28th. Thanks to volunteers Pam Meharg and Marty Shepherd, SAS was well represented. We had about 100 visitors to our table with good opportunities to talk about birds, SAS and conservation issues.

Phyllis Hall, Outreach Coordinator

Eco Camp

Seminole Audubon Society is happy to announce that we are granting scholarships to three children for one week each this summer to attend Summer Adventure Eco Camp at Geneva Wilderness Area. Thank you for your donations throughout the year, which have helped SAS to grant these funds. The children will learn about the natural world around them as they enjoy being outdoors. Each weeklong camp offers creative programming including hiking, nature crafts, hands-on experiences with plants and animals, projects, experiments, arts & crafts, plus lots of fun and games. The children will have fun getting to know the animals that live at the Nature Center and enjoy viewing wildlife on the trails! Each week has an exciting, different theme.

Marguerite Terwilleger

Save The Date: Audubon Assembly October 19 & 20, 2018 in West Palm Beach

Audubon Assembly is Florida's premier conservation gathering, where 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 the Marriott, West Palm Beach, 1001 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Phone: 561-833-1234.

Visit <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly> to learn more about the schedule and early-bird rates. Book early! Rooms are \$129 per night plus applicable taxes/fees. Hotel block closes on September 19, 2018. Registration opens later this summer.

Program Notes

Wings on The Wind

Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, Florida, spoke with us on March 11 and shared images of shorebirds in Florida during his program, *Wings on The Wind*. The timing was perfect as it was the week before Seminole Audubon Society made a trip to Ponce Inlet for birding followed by a visit to the science center where Mr. Brothers has worked since 2004.

Mr. Brothers shared information about behavior, identification, and habitat of many shorebirds; including sandpipers, gulls, terns, sanderlings, dowitchers, willets, plovers, and more. His photographs helped to display what is sometimes just a slight difference among some of the species.

Wekiva River Potluck and Kayaking

We had our annual kayak and picnic meeting on April 8 at the Russells' place on the Wekiva. Thirty or so people brought wonderful potluck dishes. Several people were first-time kayakers.

Osprey, alligators, limpkin, a duck family with eight babies, and a barred owl visited within the picnic area. The appearance of sandpipers on the river was a delight and, as usual, we so enjoyed the relaxing river.



Seminole Audubon was able to present the Russells with two wood duck boxes to put out on the river. Next year we may see the rewards of that. Many thanks to the Russells.

Games and Photos

Bird Trivia was the name of the game at our May 6 special meeting. Competition was fierce between the two teams but ended in a tie. We enjoyed a slide show of photos taken by Seminole Audubon Society members Sarah Donlan, Lewis Gray, Chuck Honaker, Leslie Martin, Shirley Reilly, and Michelle Vaughn. We hope to include more photo showings from members during our 2018-2019 season.



Indigo Bunting by Sarah Donlan



Hooded Warbler by Chuck Honaker



Summer Tanager by Lewis Gray



Baltimore Oriole by Michelle Vaughn



Tennessee Warbler by Leslie Martin

Trip Notes

Ponce Inlet and Marine Science Center



A hearty, healthy group of Seminole Audubon members and friends met very early at Ponce Inlet Park on



March 17 to check out the shorebirds. Michael Brothers, the Director of the Marine Science Center (MSC), accompanied us all morning. The Marine Science Center is the perfect place to learn about our rich environment and ways we can conserve it. One of the main goals of the MSC is sea turtle rehabilitation.

Guests can overlook seven turtle hospital pools from the Turtle Terrace, located in front of the main facility. These pools house sick and injured sea turtles, hatchlings, and washbacks under rehabilitation. The rehabilitating hatchlings, washbacks (newly hatched baby sea turtles that are washed back to shore by rough seas), and sea turtles are released upon full recovery. The MSC turtle rehabilitation area also includes care and treatment of freshwater turtles and land tortoises.

Shirley Reilly



Gatorland

Our last field trip of the 2017-18 year was to Gatorland, south of Orlando. We met early on April 14 and were ready to see the wading bird rookery there perched above alligators—some of very awesome size. There were a number of other photographers there with equipment to take pictures and record sounds coming from the birds and the alligators. This is the time of year that the male gators lift and hold their heads above the water and then splash down hard in an effort to intimidate other males and attract females.



There were hundreds of wading birds—wood storks, snowy egrets, and herons of different sorts. The pictures included in this article demonstrate the wonderful opportunity this trip gave to us to get shots of nesting, wading birds. Some birds were still courting, building nests, incubating eggs, feeding very young chicks and feeding soon- to-be-fledged chicks. As you can see, there were some awesome pictures taken by our folks.





The walk along the “Real Swamp” on the property yielded opportunities to see warblers, woodpeckers and other birds. This was a great chance to see, photograph and appreciate the birds and reptiles early in the day before the park opened and when few folks were there.

Marty Shepherd



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 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 one 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_____

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If you join elsewhere, please use our Chapter Code: **C8ZE310Z**

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



www.seminoleaudubon.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers!



HELP WANTED! There are openings on Seminole Audubon Society's Committees and Board of Directors. Help is needed with planning field trips and programs, Hospitality, Energy, Audubon Adventures, and more. Contact current leadership at seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

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.