

The JAY



www.seminoleaudubon.org

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

September—October 2019

Species Could Face Extinction in Favor of Business Interests

Since 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), one of the most successful environmental laws ever written, has provided protection for native species. Many Florida animals, including the Bald Eagle, Florida Panther, Florida Manatee, and more would be extinct today if not for the safeguards afforded by the ESA. Under apparent direction from the current Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had released three new rules that substantially weaken protections for listed species.

Instead of basing listing and delisting decisions solely on scientific data provided by scientists and wildlife experts, "economic impact" will become a critical factor. Development potential and presence of oil or gas in its habitat could be more important than the survival of a species.

The new language limits the degree to which potential habitat loss from "flooding, heat impacts, and range changes" can be considered for listing and delisting.

Instead of granting "threatened" species the same protections as "endangered" species, threatened species and their habitats will no longer receive the same protections.

These three new rules put the **fate of our most vulnerable species in the hands of business interests** such as developers, timber, oil, gas, and mining companies. Thankfully, the state governments of California and Massachusetts are standing up to the President's tremendous overreach. Considering the benefit the ESA has provided Florida it is only right that Florida Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Moody denounce the Administration's actions and join the lawsuit to prevent the ESA's destruction. Please contact them with your request that Florida join the lawsuit and save our species.

<https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/> and <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/contact>.

It would be appreciated if you would contact your members of Congress as well and ask them to support a strong ESA and reject these new rules. Their contact information can be found at

<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/contacts/elected-officials/>

Take Action to Help Birds

Ask any elected official, **your voice does matter**. Even if you have only a few free minutes, you can do something to help birds. Visit the National Audubon Society page <https://www.audubon.org/takeaction> or the American Bird Conservancy <https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/take-action/> where you will find information about current issues and actions you can take to help birds.





WELCOME

New Members & New to Our Chapter

Mel Amos
David Aubele
Deborah Collette
Steven & Anne Collins
Cathy Connell
Rebecca Cruz
Chandrakant P. Doshi
Lorrie K Gault
Thomas Gill
Katrina Hall
Lisa Harris
Angelina Harris
John Hartman
Marjorie Henderson
Chris Hurn
Norman Hykoski
Ginger Johnson

DeBary
Deltona
DeBary
Longwood
Deltona
Apopka
Lake Mary
Sanford
Lake Mary
Deltona
DeBary
Deltona
Sanford
Deltona
Lake Mary
Osteen
Sanford

Melissa Lemelin
John Ley
Barbara Macon
Robert McKee
Marcelle Morrocco
Lorraine Murphy
Barbara Papoi
Karen Schneider
Dennis Scully
Gina Sica
Shari Simmons
Russell & Nancy Sineni
Lynn Smith
Elizabeth Strubbe
Kathy Veon
George A. Weldon
Debora Xavier
Glenna Zollinger

Deltona
Oviedo
Sanford
Sanford
Cassadaga
Lake Mary
Deltona
Sanford
Deltona
Lake Mary
DeBary
Lake Mary
Oviedo
Lake Mary
Lake Mary
Deltona
Lake Mary
Sanford



SAS Trip to Colombia

Colombia has more species of birds than any other country, over 1900! Join Seminole Audubon and Holbrook Travel January 4-12, 2020 on a birding trip to the Central Andes. The trip begins in Periera with an optional early day in Bogota. We will visit Otun Quimbaya Sanctuary, Santa Rosa de Cabal, the hummingbird feeders at Rio Blanco Reserve and the high altitude Los Nevados National Park.

If you have questions or interest please contact Leslie Martin at woodstork.martin@gmail.com. See the full itinerary at <https://www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/americas/colombia/colombia-birding-central-andes-seminole-audubon-society>.

Keep Up With SAS

SeminoleAudubon.org or follow us on:



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Reprinted from FBS News with permission Florida Bluebird Society, Inc.

If you're having trouble with crows taking over your feeders or just being a general nuisance, there's a simple – but unusual – way to get rid of them. That's what Linda Ashley discovered one day while buying birdseed at the *Wild Birds Unlimited* store in the Argyle Village Shopping Center in Jacksonville.

Linda, who assists with monitoring the bluebird trail at the Penney Retirement Community, was looking around the store one day when she spotted a stuffed crow lying on its back, feet up. When asked what it was for, Linda was told it was a sure-fire way to keep crows away.



Although somewhat skeptical, Linda bought the stuffed crow because the live crows were causing a nuisance in her yard. Her skepticism disappeared when she placed the "dead" crow a few feet outside the fence surrounding her yard. In no time at all a flock of crows congregated in the branches of a tree near the dead crow and held a raucous wake. One curious crow flew down to the ground to take a closer look, but wasn't brave enough to actually get near the stuffed bird. Then, after a short while, all the crows took off and they haven't been back since!

Yes, this sounds weird. And yes, there are myriad suggestions on how to get rid of crows. Some work, some don't. But take it from Linda, this stuffed crow really does work!



After this article was distributed, we have received a number of additional testimonials from Florida Bluebird Society members who have had similar successful experiences with fake dead crows. Crows, and other members of the Corvidae family, are known for their intelligence and excellent memories. Apparently they do not want to hang out in a location where a relative may have died and the fake dead crow really does deter nuisance crows.

Deborah Green Wins NAS Award

The National Audubon Society awarded Deborah Green the William Dutcher Award for the Southeast during its biennial convention in Milwaukee. This prestigious award acknowledges conservation volunteers in Audubon whose creativity and leadership are a model for others. Green has been a champion in Central Florida for habitat protection and energy efficiency and has served for twenty years as a member of Orange Audubon Society, including six years as president.



Among the many accomplishments for which she was recognized:

- Green created, secured \$60,000 in grant funding, and implemented an energy efficiency program to retrofit homes and churches in an underserved Central Florida community.
- She has been key in the evolution of Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI), a statewide program to recruit college-aged Floridians to conservation and Audubon. CLI is a unique, intergenerational experience uniting Audubon's leaders with some of the state's best and brightest college students. CLI includes co-mentoring opportunities for Audubon leaders and college students in order to network, share, and learn from each other.

William Dutcher was a prominent amateur ornithologist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, in 1905, was appointed the first President of the National Audubon Society. The William Dutcher Award was created in his honor to recognize outstanding volunteer service by Audubon leaders that results in bird conservation. As beneficiaries of Dutcher's legacy, Audubon members can be proud to emulate him.



Purple Martin Project Report

Seminole Audubon Society has two Purple Martin “housing” units that are placed near Lake Monroe during nesting season. Each unit consists of poles and eight gourds. One set of gourds, located at the end of the Sanford RiverWalk, has never been used. This year both units were placed near each other in the marina area.

There was some activity in all sixteen gourds this year, and it appears there were successful nestings in fourteen of the gourds. If you happened to visit the area during nesting season, you found a very busy place with Purple Martins flying in, out and all around the gourds.

We thank Jim Peters for his work and coordination of this important project. We are also thankful for the cooperation of Robert Beall, Operations Manager for the City of Sanford Parks and Recreation Department.

JayWatch

This summer, SAS members participated in the Florida Audubon JayWatch citizen science program that measures annual nesting success and counts the total number of Florida Scrub-Jays at more than 46 sites in 19 counties. Our volunteers assisted on four properties and logged 184 volunteer hours.

If you would like to read more about Florida Scrub-Jays and their status, annual reports are located at <https://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-jay-watch-annual-report>.



Your SAS Board has been busy over the summer...

The SAS Board has had a productive summer with planning meetings May 19, July 21 and August 18. Highlights of our meetings have included: approval to provide five scholarships for SAS/Audubon memberships for Seminole College students and approval of the budget for the coming year. We all especially want to extend our thanks to the Programs & Field Trips planning committee: Leslie Martin, Sara Donlan, and Michele Vaughn. They have put together a fabulous season for us. And thanks to Faith Jones and Corrinne Wertz for producing our programs and field trips brochure. An updated Board and Committee Chair list is on page 9 of this newsletter.

Marguerite Terwilleger & Phyllis Hall, Co-Presidents

SAS Website

The SAS website has been updated to include our 2019-2020 programs and field trips. Check it out and share it with your friends. <https://seminoleaudubon.org/>

Phyllis Hall

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee continues to monitor conservation priorities in our area. The Conservation Committee members are: Phyllis Hall (chair), Sam Kendall, Jim Denslow, Faith Jones, Cecilia Carey, and Mindy Hellman. Phyllis and Cecilia attend the meetings of Audubon Central FL Regional Conservation Committee, Wekiva Basin Planning Commission, and Wekiva River Advisory Committee. Mindy monitors the agendas for the Seminole Planning and Development Review Committee each week. If you hear of anything the committee should be aware of, please let us know.

Phyllis Hall



SAS Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to take on any of these positions, or would like more information contact us at seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

Refreshments: Coordinate volunteers to bring refreshments to our meetings. Coordinate the food for any potlucks we might plan.

Historian: Maintain SAS archive materials, including scrapbooks, binders of previous newsletters, brochures, etc.

Maintain Inventory of SAS Premiums: Keep an inventory and stock of books and bird seed to bring to the monthly program meetings.

Upcoming Programs

September 8, 2019

EagleWatch - Shawnlei Breeding

Florida is home to the second largest population of nesting Eagles in the United States. Join us on September 8th to hear Shawnlei Breeding, Audubon Eagle Watch Manager, explain how Audubon works to protect our Bald Eagles and their habitat. Find out how you can become involved and further Audubon's efforts by monitoring Eagle nests, becoming a "Friend of Eagles" or simply talking to friends and family about important issues.



October 13, 2019

The BIG SIT!

In place of our regular meeting at the library, Seminole Audubon will participate in the Big SIT! The Big Sit! is an annual international birding competition hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest* and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. This is how it works: find a good spot for birdwatching, create a circle 17' in diameter and sit inside the circle counting all the bird species you see or hear.

Our team, the Seminole Sitters, has chosen Lake Jesup Wilderness Area, 5951 Sanford Avenue, Sanford, as our birding location. Come join us under the beige canopy. We will count bird species from sunrise to noon. We will do our best to

complete a list of "most wanted" species. We have been extremely successful in the past. This event lets us enjoy the camaraderie of our favorite sport, birdwatching. Members will be available all morning to answer your birding questions.

November 10, 2019

Improve our Watershed - Fertilize Appropriately - Dr. Terrence Fullerton

Learn the Dos and Don'ts for landscape fertilizing from Dr. Fullerton, Seminole County Fertilizer Educator. Proper fertilizer use is one of the most important things you can do to protect our water. In addition to explaining proper fertilizer use, Dr. Fullerton will also interpret the rules set forth in Seminole County's Fertilizer Ordinance.



Beginner's Guide on How Plants Interact with Light

Florida Native Plant Society, Cuplet Fern chapter, is having its 4th annual regional meeting highlighting plant communication on October 1st at 7 pm. The evening program has **Dr. Craig Huegel**, a big name in FNPS, coming to present a beginner's guide on how plants interact with light. The program is free to the public. The event is at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

Upcoming Trips

It is essential to notify us in advance if you plan to attend as last minute changes happen. Liability release form must be signed. Remember: appropriate footwear, hat, sunscreen, water, snack and insect repellent are often a good idea.

Ways to notify us if you plan to attend a Field Trip:

E-mail SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com or Sarahdonlan42@gmail.com

[MeetUp.com/SeminoleAudubon-com](https://www.meetup.com/SeminoleAudubon-com)

Sign-up at a meeting

September 21, 2019

Smyrna Dunes Park, New Smyrna Beach

This 73-acre Volusia County Park at the north end of the New Smyrna Beach peninsula contains five ecosystems and is home to a wide variety of animals, birds, reptiles, marine life and vegetation in their natural habitat. \$10 per car, parking is limited. Meet at Park at 8:30 am or carpool from in front of Ross in the Walmart parking lot on 17/92 near Lake Mary Blvd. Carpool will leave at 7:45 am for the 45-minute drive to the park. Bring snack or lunch, water, sand/beach shoes, hat and sunscreen. 2995 N. Peninsula Ave, New Smyrna Beach, FL.



October 4, 2019

Florida Scrub-Jays at Yankee Lake Facility, Sanford

We will have a guided tour of this protected property, home to the only Florida Scrub-Jays in Seminole County. Meet at 8 am at the Seminole County Northwest Water Reclamation Facility, 501 Yankee Lake Road off SR46 near the entrance to the Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park. Contact: Phyllis Hall at phylliscath814@gmail.com

October 19, 2019

Hatbill Park and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, Mims

This 6000-acre preserve is home to lots of wading birds and other wetland species. We will drive along a dirt road and walk to the observation tower on Silver Lake. Carpool from in front of Ross in the Walmart parking lot on 17/92 near Lake Mary Blvd. will leave at 7:45 am. Bring binoculars, hiking shoes for protection, sunscreen, and a chair if you care to sit.



November 16, 2019

Blue Heron Pontoon Boat Tour, DeLand

We will take off from St. Johns Marina & Resort, 2999 West SR 44, DeLand, for this two-hour narrated tour, which will take us north on the St. Johns River into the Ocala National Forest, the Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge and river tributaries. There will be stops for wildlife viewing and photography, discussions of river history, and human environmental impact. You won't want to miss this immersion in the magnificent splendor of the St. Johns River watershed. \$25 per person, cash or check. Binoculars, camera, water, snack, and hat suggested. Snack bar and restroom are available on boat.



Welcome SAS New Treasurer

When Jan taught first grade in Nebraska, she enlarged a beautiful blue bird with a red breast from a Hallmark card for use in her classroom. Such a pretty bird on a Hallmark card! How surprised she was years later while camping at Blue Spring State Park to enjoy a visit to her campsite by a group of birds that looked just like the bird from the card! What a wonderful introduction to the Eastern Bluebird and the variety of birds to be found in Florida!

Jan is originally from rural Eastern Nebraska. She graduated with a Masters in Education from the University of Nebraska and has since added some accounting and a Certificate in Data Processing. Jan has had a varied

career: first grade teacher in Nebraska, Office Manager for a Cadillac dealer in Texas, finance person for the Florida Canal Authority and the Office of Greenways and Trails at Florida's DEP, Database Programmer and Data Analyst for the Florida Children's Forum. Jan retired last year from running her own home business as a bookkeeper for several professional water organizations.

Jan enjoys traveling, nature walks, camping, creating in stained glass, dancing, coffee with friends and photo treks with her husband, Jim. She looks forward to serving the Seminole Audubon Society as Treasurer, and we are thrilled to have her on our Board.



REI Presents: The Last Green Thread

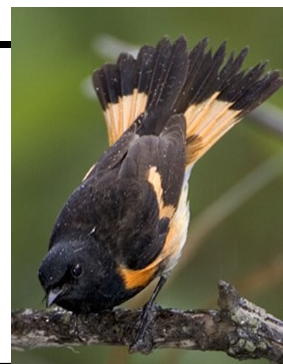
On a narrow path through Florida's Everglades Headwaters, three friends embark on a journey to survey a fragile wilderness corridor before it disappears forever. Amidst a backdrop of massive development and population growth, their expedition documents the vitality and connectedness of an ecosystem in a state of rapid transformation. Mother nature may be resilient – but when the last green thread is stretched to the breaking point, can we summon the courage and resourcefulness to change course? This is an excellent video available on YouTube. A MUST watch for all Floridians.



Need help identifying birds? Try the free Merlin Bird app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Merlin is designed to be a birding coach for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Merlin asks you the same questions that an expert birder would ask to help solve a mystery bird sighting: date and location, select up to 3 colors, select a size using an icon, and select where you saw the bird (in a tree, flying, on the ground, etc.) Merlin presents a shortlist of

possible species based on descriptions. The Photo ID feature in Merlin allows anyone with a camera to snap a photo and get a list of suggestions. Download the app and our region bird pack (US Southeast). Find it at this link: <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Fall Migration is underway and it is a great time to go birding! American Redstarts and other warblers will be passing through this time of year. on their way south to their wintering grounds. Barn Swallows, Red-eyed Vireos, and Northern Parulas that have been here for breeding will be leaving and heading south. But don't be upset about their leaving for the winter as Gray Catbirds and our other winter birds will be arriving soon.





2019 Audubon Assembly

October 25-26, 2019

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Gainesville, Florida

This year's Audubon Assembly will be in Gainesville, Florida. The North Central Florida region is full of sparkling freshwater springs, incredible wetlands, thriving working forests, and, of course, magnificent birding. Be sure to save the date on your calendar to join us October 25 and 26 for the largest gathering of conservation professionals and activists in Florida.

This year's theme is: Water and Land for Florida's Future: Science-based Strategies for Clean Water and Healthy Watersheds.

Registration for the Assembly is open. The hotel is currently accepting reservations at the discounted Audubon rate. Check out FL.Audubon.org/Assembly for more information.

A special thank you to host chapters Alachua Audubon, Marion Audubon, Santa Fe Audubon, and Four Rivers Audubon!



Fall FOS Meeting in DeLand

The Fall Meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society will take place Nov 1-3, 2019 at Stetson University's Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience in DeLand, FL. More details will follow soon but mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The gathering will feature student presentations on Florida wetlands and water birds as well as field trips to nearby locations (and perhaps a special pre-dawn trip in search of one of our rarest rails). Cash prizes totaling nearly \$450 will be awarded to student presenters (both posters and oral). Visit www.fosbirds.org for details.



WEKIVA REVEALED AMPOUT 2019



Commune with nature and learn some of her secrets during this weekend of activities!

SAVE THE DATE
FriendsOfWekiva.org

NOVEMBER 8 - 10, 2019
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
Wekiva Springs State Park, Youth Camp

List of Activities and Registration Form available at FriendsOfWekiva.org.

Questions: FriendsWekivaRiver@gmail.com or 407-788-2619

2019-2020
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/19)
407-797-4636
SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com

Term	Board Members	Office & Roles	
2019-2021	Marguerite Terwilleger	Co-President	mterwilleger51@gmail.com
		Facebook	
2018-2020	Phyllis Hall	Co-President	phylliscath814@gmail.com
		Outreach, Education, Web Site, Seminole College Liaison	
2019-2021	Sarah Donlan	Vice President	sarahdonlan42@gmail.com
		Programs & Trips, Facilitate monthly meetings	
2019-2021	Jan Peters	Treasurer	jan@janetkpeters.com
2018-2020	Shirley Reilly	JayWatch	shirleyreilly34@aol.com
2018-2020	Michelle Vaughn	Hospitality	michellevaughn329@gmail.com
		Eagle Watch, Programs & Trips	
2018-2020	Jim Denslow	CLP Liaison	bdenslow@cfl.rr.com
2019-2021	Lewis Gray	Jane Isle	lewisngray@bellsouth.net
2019-2021	Leslie Martin	Programs & Trips	leslielou63@gmail.com
		Christmas Bird Count, Backyard Bird Count	
2018-2020	Corrinne Wertz	Publications	cwertz127@aol.com

Board Support Positions

Marty Shepherd	Membership	gindad@cfl.rr.com
Mindy Hellman	Recording Secretary	mindy-hellman@usa.net
Jim Peters	Purple Martins	jim@jameshpeters.com
Peggy Stickney	Press, Corresponding Sec.	stickneymargaret@gmail.com
Sam Kendall	Energy	samuelk32@embarqmail.com
Faith Jones	Newsletter Compiler	faithaudubon@gmail.com
Shirley Folse	Phone Communication	407-797-4636
Joy Rector & Cecilia Carey	Elementary Education	joy7audubon@aol.com
Cecilia & John Carey	Conservation	cacarey@cfl.rr.com
	Monthly Meetings PowerPoint, Email blasts, Meet Up	
Margaret Loring	New Member Welcome Letter	mloring@cfl.rr.com

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Introductory offer For New Members Only \$20.00/ 1 year Join on our website *SeminoleAudubon.org*

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone/ e-mail: _____

The JAY

Seminole Audubon Society

PO Box 2977

Sanford FL 32772-2977



Calendar of Events

www.seminoleaudubon.org

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

Sun. Sep. 8 **Eagles in Florida.**
Sun. Oct. 13 **The Big Sit!**
Sun. Nov. 10 **Fertilize Appropriately**

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, or e-mail us at seminoleaudubon@gmail.com

Sat. Sep. 21 **Smyrna Dunes Park**, New Smyrna Beach
Fri. Oct. 4 **Florida Scrub-Jays at Yankee Lake Facility**, Sanford
Sat. Oct. 19 **Hatbill Park & Seminole Ranch Conservation Area**, Mims
Sat. Nov. 16 **Blue Heron Pontoon Boat – St. Johns River**, DeLand

Crystal Lake Preserve, Lake Mary.

Thu. Sep. 12 & Oct. 17 Time and meeting location 407-323-4506 or bdenslow@cfl.rr.com

Seminole County Natural Lands Guided Hikes. Must Pre-register 407-665-2211. Cost \$3.00

Sat. Sep. 7	Swamp Walk	8:00-10:00 am	Spring Hammock Preserve
Sat. Sep. 21	Night Hike	7:00- 9:00 pm	Lake Proctor Wilderness Area
Sat. Sep. 28	Free Public Land Hike	8:00- noon	Black Bear Wilderness Area
Sat. Oct. 26	Plant Walk & Talk	9:00-11:00 am	Econ River Wilderness Area
Sat. Nov. 2	Birds & Bagels	7:30- 9:30 am	Lake Harney Wilderness Area
Nov. 2—3	Great American CampOut	2:00pm Sat – 9:00 am Sun	Lake Mills Park \$10