

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 2020

From the Board...

What an extraordinary year we've all experienced with isolation and restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully you've been able to enjoy backyard and local birding and maybe some gardening as stress-relieving activities during this time. Because of continued concerns about COVID-19, our monthly programs will be held on Zoom for the foreseeable future. When we are able to meet again safely, we meet at the Seminole IFAS/University of Florida County Extension Auditorium, 250 W County Home Road, Sanford, FL 32773 where we have more room to spread out.

Meeting notices for the monthly meetings on Zoom will be sent by email to everyone on our distribution list. If you are interested in attending a program and are not on our distribution list, contact SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com.

This season our field trips will be limited for the number of participants. No carpools are planned. Most venues are in our nearby geographic area and easily accessible. There is limited attendance on some trips with reservations required. For the safety of all participants, we will be following CDC guidelines and local COVID-19 orders regarding social distancing and wearing masks.

Detailed descriptions of the programs and field trips are on our web site: seminoleaudubon.org under the birding tab.

By-laws Revised

The board and committee chairs have updated our by-laws to reflect current processes and electronic communications. We will ask you to approve these changes via electronic vote in October.

Article I – Membership: remove 2 votes per family if both members are present at a meeting, added Associate Membership voting rights, removed charge for being on the mailing list for non-members.

Article II – Meetings: change annual meeting to March or April, change notice of annual meeting to written or electronic.

Article III – Board of Directors: change number of meetings to at least three per calendar year, change notice of meetings to electronic.

Article IV – Officers: Updated secretary responsibilities, changed treasurer financial summary to be included in annual report submitted to National Audubon (previously Audubon of Florida).

Conservation update

Governor DeSantis vetoed SB 410, which would have crippled counties' abilities to stand up to developers seeking approval for unwise proposals to sprawl. Countywide growth management plans are vital to address the various needs of a community, allowing a county to plan for areas of high-density housing, affordable housing, and rural conservation. Thanks to everyone for your emails and calls on this.

Marking a major step forward, Governor DeSantis signed bipartisan water legislation, SB 712, the Clean Waterways Act. SB 712 will tackle sources of excess nutrients in our waterways, including wastewater, stormwater, and agriculture. SB 712 lays the foundation for further improvements in Florida's water quality and quantity. The Governor also signed HB 1091, the Environmental Accountability Act, which requires levying higher fines on those who violate environmental laws.

The Governor signed SB 0178 that requires state-financed coastal construction to account for sea level rise and storm surge in development plans. This is the first piece of state legislation that acknowledges the effects of sea level rise on coastal infrastructure. By factoring risk from climate change into building plans, communities can save money over the long term.

Despite cuts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the final budget was very strong for the environment including \$100 million allocated for Florida Forever funding, \$318.6 million for Everglades restoration and protection, and \$41 million for State Park improvements.



Birds need you!

Sign up to receive "The Advocate" legislative briefing and other alerts from Audubon Florida. The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help. As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife and their habitats — and be heard like no lobbyist. <https://fl.audubon.org/>

Seminole Audubon Society Adopt-A-Park

On July 18th, Marguerite Terwilliger, Leslie Martin, Marty Shepherd, Chuck Honaker, Cecilia Carey, and Phyllis Hall met at Lake Jesup Park for the SAS Adopt-A-Park clean up. We collected 6 bags of trash, cleaned the sign, and swept the pavilion. Many bird species were spotted including Osprey, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Limpkin, Mourning Dove, Boat-tailed Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird and Downy Woodpecker. These clean up events are scheduled once a quarter.

Contact Leslie Martin at woodstork.martin@gmail.com or Marguerite Terwilliger at mterwilliger51@gmail.com if you are interested in coming to the next one.





Purple Martins

Purple Martins are migratory swallows that spend the fall and early winter in the Amazon Basin in South America. Shortly after the 1st of the year, Purple Martins begin their migration to North and Central America for the breeding season. Under the leadership of Jim and Jan Peters, SAS has maintained a colony site at North Shore Park on Lake Monroe in Sanford. In January, sixteen gourds on two poles were erected at the colony site. Jan & Jim Peters and Michelle Vaughn closely monitored the site during the spring and early summer. Many Purple Martins were observed in flight and offspring were spotted poking

their heads out of the gourds. By late July, no more Purple Martins were seen, indicating that they had left for their wintering grounds. On August 7th, the poles and gourds were taken down for cleaning and repairs. Fourteen of the gourds contained nests – the same as the previous year. The nests were constructed of layers of mud, twigs, pine needles and other plant materials, topped off with oak leaves. White eggshell fragments were found in some of the gourds.

Cecilia Carey



Seminole Scrubbers

In May of 2015, Rosi Mulholland, Land Manager of St. Johns River Water Management District, asked SAS if members would help condition the Florida Scrub-Jays at Lake Monroe Conservation Area. The original team is pictured here and consisted of Marty Shepherd, Faith Jones, Jane Miller, Shirley Reilly, Pam Meharg, and Rosi Mulholland. Through attrition over the years, the group is reduced to three active members and Faith who is available when she is in town. The group calls itself the "Seminole Scrubbers."



Conditioning consists of training the birds to go into a trap so that a certified bander can properly band them. Certified bander, Maria Zondervan, became an important part of our team. "The Scrubbers" have special permits to coax the birds into the traps. Maria banded three Florida Scrub-Jays last year and we counted three juveniles in June of 2019. In July 2020, we



banded two juveniles. We went from a total of 3 pairs to a total of 11 Jays, 7 adults (one, possibly a juvenile from last year, is now a helper) and 4 juveniles. Conditioning and banding will continue.



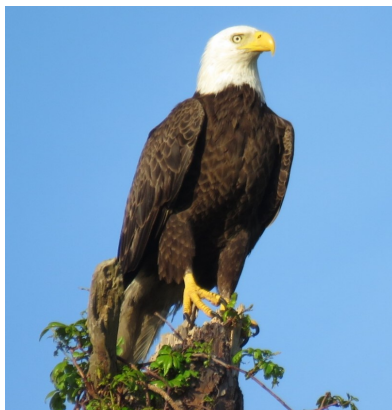
Juvenile Florida Scrub-jays learning to cache nuts

Many hours of blood, sweat, tears and truck toil went into these years of conditioning. We had many laughs and the driver was glad she had so much help backing up and turning around in mud holes and impassable roads. SJRWMD is improving the land by cutting and burning the brush for the Jays, which are endemic to Florida. We hope we can continue to help improve the Florida Scrub-Jay population in Florida.

Story and photos by Shirley Reilly



Adult on cage



EagleWatch

You can almost feel the excitement building as the 2020-21 Eagle nesting season approaches. Even though the season officially begins on October 1st, Eagle Watchers all over the state are eagerly expecting their Eagles to start returning in early September.

EagleWatch is a Volunteer Community Science Program sponsored by Audubon Florida, which provides valuable information on nesting activity and the current trends of the Bald Eagle

population in Florida that are used by both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance their conservation and law enforcement efforts. Volunteers are trained and assigned a nest to monitor from October to May. This past year 842 nests were monitored all over the state and volunteers donated almost 8,000 hours. A trained volunteer will visit nests regularly and collect data that help protect Bald Eagles. This information also enables Audubon scientists to better understand the needs of Florida's Eagles.



You can join these dedicated volunteers and monitor nests in your area. You will be able to observe Eagles laying their eggs, caring for their eaglets and eventually you can see the fledglings fly masterfully into the sky. It is truly an unforgettable experience!

Michelle Vaughn

Training Dates

Audubon EagleWatch is seeking volunteers to monitor Bald Eagle nests for the 2020-2021 breeding season. Training is required for new volunteers. This year, due to COVID-19, the volunteer training will be online. There will be five trainings offered, but each new volunteer needs to attend **only one**. Register below. More information is available at eaglewatch@audubon.org or 407-644-0190.

Saturday September 5th 10 am-12 pm. Register here:

<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqd-2tpjgvHNDzxJgqFBj6G8LagF6BqVWt>

Sunday Sept 13th 2-4 pm. Register here:

<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkcOihrDlpE9TrlvVC3DdFGLRs4oaNmaU1>

Saturday Sept 19th 10 am-12 pm. Register here:

https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJA1c-GqazssGNDJulGTC5a6aHPzN_tN-7xq

Saturday Sept 26th 10 am-12 pm. Register here:

https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdeGpqjloGNUo-uFNqIK_qdDRbwgo8m49

Sunday Oct 4th, 2-4 pm. Register here:

<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkf-CqqDkjE9wh7jNyZeqFvrexHkbyopal>

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Support Seminole Audubon Society when you shop. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. We hope you will choose Seminole Audubon Society.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at

smile.amazon.com

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

Upcoming Programs

Because of continued concerns about COVID-19, our monthly programs will be held on Zoom for the foreseeable future. Use the link below to join the meeting on **Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 pm**. We appreciate your patience with us as we all learn to use Zoom together!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89432960258?pwd=MWlVcVJnM0FNSlplJQnFNUWQ1NldJdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 3296 0258

Passcode: 371312

Participants for the meeting will be admitted from the waiting room and will be muted with video/picture off. Please keep those settings since the meeting will be recorded. Questions for the speaker will be submitted via the chat box and will be answered at the end of the presentation.

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River with Wekiva River Ambassador Ashley Konan

Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 pm

In October 2000, the Wekiva River, Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run and Black Water Creek were designated by the US Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River. Ashley will explain what this means to Floridians as well as her role as River Ambassador. Ashley has many special events planned in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this designation.



The BIG SIT!

Sunday, October 11 from 7:00 am—noon



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.

Understanding Coyote Behavior in Florida

Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 pm

Catherine Kennedy, a senior biological scientist with FWC, will share information about coyote biology, behavior, and their history. She will explain how to prevent interactions and what to do if you see one in order to reduce conflicts and keep pets safe.



Photo Courtesy of FWC

Keep Up With SAS

Visit our website **SeminoleAudubon.org** or follow us on:



Upcoming Trips

This season, because of concerns about COVID-19, field trips will be limited. No carpools are planned. Most venues are close by and easily accessible. Attendance is limited on some trips. For the safety of participants, we will be following CDC guidelines and local COVID-19 orders regarding social distancing and wearing masks.

Blue Heron River Tour, DeLand

Thursday September 17 - Be at the landing by 9:30 am.

We will leave 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 discussions of river history, human environmental impact and stops for wildlife viewing and photography. You won't want to miss this immersion in the magnificent splendor of the St. Johns River watershed. Cost: \$25 per person to be paid to the tour boat director. Binoculars, camera, water, snack, jacket and hat suggested. Snack bar and restroom are available at the dock. **Reservations required.** Contact Sarah Donlan 407-687-6087 or email sarahdonlan42@gmail.com



Princess Place Preserve Flagler County Saturday October 17

At the confluence of Pellicer Creek and the Matanzas River, Princess Place Preserve is a Flagler County park protecting the oldest homestead in the county, Cherokee Grove. In 1997, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. We should be able to see vultures, hawks, crows, warblers, woodpeckers, wrens, herons and other water birds.



It is located between SR A1A and I-95, on Pellicer Creek, just south of the St. Johns/Flagler county line. 2500 Princess Place Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32137. Moderate hiking level. Restroom available. Meet at the Red/Orange Trail parking area at 9:00 am. Contact Sarah Donlan 407-687-6087 or email sarahdonlan42@gmail.com



Anniversary Celebration with various activities at these locations.

October 3, Saturday. Katie's Landing Park

October 4 Sunday, Paddle Trip Katie's Landing Park (registration required)

October 10, Saturday, Seminole State Forest, Bear Pond Trailhead

October 11, Sunday. Paddle Trip Seminole State Forest Black Water Creek launch

October 17 Saturday. Wekiwa Springs State Park

October 18, Sunday. Paddle Trip launch site TBD (registration required)

October 24, Saturday. Wilson's Landing Park

October 25, Sunday. Paddle Trip Wilson's Landing Park (registration required)

Sign up for the events on the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Facebook page.

Want to help out at any of these events? Click here to sign up! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-pdTGHXD0xu9ZNORClF-0uVIV4N97o3ZxEtPNvABuEz2VXQ/viewform>

Featured Species: American Redstart

by Faith Jones

Order: Passeriformes
Family: Parulidae
Genus: *Setophaga*
Species: *ruticilla*

American Redstarts (AMRE) are one of the birds we look forward to seeing each fall. They are neo-tropical migrants that pass through Central Florida each Fall on their way to their wintering grounds in the tropics. We see them again in the Spring as they migrate north on their way to their breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and Canada.



Identification: The AMRE is a 4.5" –5.5" wood warbler. Males are black with bright orange patches on their wings and tail. Females and young have the same color pattern but are olive-brown with yellow patches on wings and tail. Both sexes have a white belly.

Habitat: AMRE prefer moist, second-growth woodlands and thickets with saplings. They are generally found in the mid-story.

Behavior: These beautiful warblers appear nervous and fidgety as they whirl from branch to branch often showing their wing mark and widely fanning their tail as they pursue flying insects. They have flycatcher-like rectal bristles around a broad-based bill, which enhance their ability to feed on the fly. American Redstarts behave in much the same way in their Central Mexican wintering grounds where they are locally known as "candelitas" (little candles).



Identify Birds by Sound

Created by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Chemnitz University of Technology, BirdNET is an endeavor to determine how computers learn birds from sounds. Using machine learning, avian sounds are detected and classified from recordings made by people like us. At least 984 of the most common species found in North America and Europe are now identifiable, and the list is expanding as more and more people use the application.

At this point it is still a prototype and by no means should it be considered a final product. But, the current version is markedly improved since it was first released. I recently started using it again and have been very impressed with how quickly it can identify a bird sound in a recording. On occasion it will respond that a positive ID is not possible and will offer a wild guess. Realize it is a wild guess and do not take that as a positive ID.

I suggest you visit <https://birdnet.cornell.edu/> and view the Live Stream Demo. It clearly explains how to use the app. If you have never tried BirdNET or if you tried it when it was first released, as I did, and dismissed it as being of no value, I suggest you give it another try.

Faith Jones



Kudos to Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society

Cuplet Fern was voted Florida Native Plant Society Chapter of the Year at their annual meeting in May. At that meeting, SAS and Cuplet Fern members received Green Palmetto Awards. These awards are given to members who make major contributions to the Society through Service, Education, or Conservation. SAS members Neta Villalobos-Bell received the award for her contribution in education and Marion Crimm received the award for her contribution as business ambassador.

Environment Taking a Hit from Pandemic

We are all doing our best to try to stay safe and also return to some sense of normalcy. Unfortunately many people who had developed good habits and reduced or eliminated their reliance on single-use items have chosen or been forced to revert to using things like single-use grocery bags, Styrofoam and plastic take-out containers, plastic utensils, etc.



Did you know that 10% of the plastic produced each year ends up in the natural environment? Plastic decomposes into tiny particles known as microplastic. Microplastics are not a specific type of plastic, but rather any type of plastic fragment.

An *Orlando Sentinel* article in May 2020 cited a local study with Audubon Center for Birds of Prey participation that found microplastics in raptors. Another study done before the pandemic and cited in *Consumer Reports* found that, on average, people were ingesting 2000 pieces of microplastic or the size of a credit card per week!



Follow CDC Guidelines, wear a mask, wash your hands often, and social distance. If you stopped using your cloth grocery bags, please think about how much better it is for the environment if you use them and wash them rather than using single-use plastic bags. If you are wearing disposable masks, realize studies indicate multi-layer cloth masks are as effective, can be laundered, and are better for the environment.

Stay safe, and stay healthy, but we also hope you will consider our environment in your choices.

Actions To Protect Birds

Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. By using fewer chemicals in and around your house you will help keep birds, pets, and your family healthy.

Plant Native Plants. Native plants provide birds with food in the form of fruit and seeds, and are home to tasty invertebrates like bugs and spiders.

Identify Invasive Non-Native (Exotic) Plants and **remove** them from your yard. Invasive non-native plants don't provide nearly as much good food or habitat as natives do, and they can threatened healthy ecosystems. For a list

visit [http://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019 Plant List ABSOLUTE FINAL.pdf](http://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019%20Plant%20List%20ABSOLUTE%20FINAL.pdf)

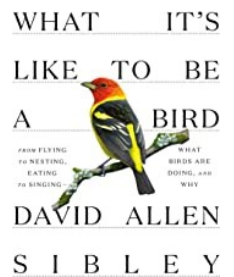
WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS or new to our Chapter

Gracia Baer	Sanford
Marlys Bartick	Sanford
Robert Briggs	Winter Springs
Chris Calder	Chuluota
Patricia Carpenter	Cassadaga
Ladye Cox	Lake Mary
Gary Dill	Osteen
Brian & Ingrid Dodd	Sanford
Kevin Duffy	Lake Mary
Randall Floyd	Lake Mary
Theresa Hutchins	DeBary
Jim & Judith Kosegi	Lake Mary
Anuradha Krishnan	Sanford
Marybeth Kritsky	Sanford
Diann Lewis	DeBary
Cathy Roach	Altamonte Springs
Alex Sorondo	Lake Mary
Sharon Suecof	Sanford
Patti Thue	Lake Mary
Jo Ann Wilcox	DeBary
Eric Wilson	DeBary

Top Notch Books Released During Pandemic

Are you looking for something to fill your time while you are social distancing or self-isolating? Looking for some interesting reading? There were two impressive bird-related books released this Spring that are worth your time. The first is a new release by renowned ornithologist and illustrator, David Allen Sibley entitled *What It's Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing- What Birds Are Doing, and Why*. The book contains the answers to all sorts of questions about birds. It contains what many observable bird behaviors mean to birds. The author's 330 beautiful illustrations bring bird behaviors to life.

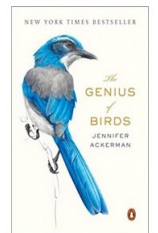


This book is appropriate for general and young readers, as well as an important addition to any birder's library. With bird populations plummeting, hopefully this book that is filled with fascinating information about birds will foster in its readers a greater appreciation for birds and a desire to protect them.



The Bird Way: A Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think by award-winning science writer Jennifer Ackerman is another important bird book that was released this Spring. Recent research has revealed our traditional view of how birds conduct their lives to be off the mark. How birds communicate, forage, court, breed and survive may be far different than previously believed.

There are bird species that practice things like deception, manipulation, cheating, kidnapping, infanticide, but also intelligent forms of communication, cooperation, collaboration, altruism, culture and play. Drawing on her personal observations and the latest science the author shows there is no single bird way of being.



Ackerman's previous book, *The Genius of Birds*, explores the intelligence of birds and reveals that birds rival primates in their remarkable forms of intelligence. It is well worth your time if you have not read it.

Faith Jones

Remembering an Environmental Hero: Bill Belleville

I first met Bill when Seminole Audubon Society (SAS) along with Friends of the Wekiva River (FOWR), Sierra Club, and numerous Sanford residents were opposing the Astor Farms development in Sanford. Bill wrote an article about urban sprawl using the specifics of the then-proposed development as a prime example of sprawl and leap-frog development. The article was picked up by the national Sierra Club magazine.

At that time Bill was working on his first book, *River of Lakes: A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River*. In my mind, this was Bill's masterpiece in which he describes his journey down the 310-mile length of the St. Johns River. He shares his experiences and insights gained while kayaking, boating, hiking its banks, diving its springs, and exploring its underwater caves. I rarely reread books, but this one I have read three times, and I still pick it up now and then to read a chapter.



Bill Belleville
2/17/1945-7/30/2020

Bill described himself as a nonfiction writer specializing in nature and conservation. He authored six books, contributed to eight national anthologies, wrote over 1000 articles, scripted and co-produced seven films. All his work has the thread of the importance of establishing connections between people and places. As I write this I can hear Bill at one of the FOWR Board meetings we attended together over the last twenty years saying we need to facilitate people making a connection with natural Florida whether it be on the Wekiva River, in Seminole State Forest, or another of Florida's special places. Once that connection is made they will then care about it and help us to preserve it. This is a thread in all his works.

Bill gave willingly of his time and talents to various non-profits, his favorites being FOWR and St Johns Riverkeeper. On numerous occasions, Bill was a guest speaker for SAS meetings. He loved and cared for Florida in ways few others have done, and he will be missed by all of us in the environmental community.

Faith Jones

Forests: Past and Future

I loved the giant, longleaf pine trees looming over the yard where I used to live. From the scaling texture of the rust-colored bark on their massive trunks way up through their angular branches waving tufts of green needles, their presence was nothing short of commanding. I lost my fear of them falling after living through several hurricanes. My neighbor told me he looked out his window during one storm and the trees were bent over the way a pole bends when a vaulter slings himself up over a bar. Fighting the wind, alive and resilient! Yes, large branches did fall in the yard but it's normal for these trees to shed lower limbs as they grow.



Pinus Palustris, longleaf pine. The species is probably 150 million years old. It was the result of a subdivision of the genus between fire regime trees and fire avoiders. Longleaf pines interacted with other species and found suitable places to live as the continents shifted and the geology of the planet transformed. Humans came way later, only 300,000 years ago. When Pocahontas rescued Captain Smith just four centuries ago, longleaf pine forests had long established their expansive home down through our nine southern states from Virginia to Florida and over to east Texas. Old-growth pines covered about ninety million acres. After that, we new Americans made short work of them.

We quickly consumed all but about five percent of this long-standing species. If sometime you think you're driving through a grand, spacious pine forest, pull off to the side. Walk a ways into the woods and soon you'll see what's on the other side; mono-cultures of grass with houses, corn fields and more roads. We didn't just take the trees. We took entire pine communities including water-purifying savannas with native grasses and flowers. We took nesting trees away from red-cockaded woodpeckers and swallow-tailed kites; wiped out communities of gopher tortoises; insects. We extinguished working micro-organisms that were banking carbon in the trees and soil. We destroyed this biodiversity without much thought of the consequences.

I never really grasped the enormity of the value of photosynthesis. I thought it made the food we eat. Now I'm aware of the important role it plays recycling carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. The vast and diverse species of forests that once covered the earth for millennia were balancing the ratio of the gases in the atmosphere. Imagine. They helped get the right amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere that would hold just the right amount of heat on the surface for them to thrive, and for you and me.

I've seen the charts: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-atmospheric-carbon-dioxide> CO₂ is higher now than it's been in 800,000 years. We have to keep the remaining fossil fuels deep in their evolutionary home. We have to draw down the excess CO₂ we've produced. We have to stop the skyrocketing rate of extinctions, described in Elizabeth Kolbert's book, *The Sixth Extinction*. Sunlight drives photosynthesis and much more. Sunlight drives electricity on rooftops and solar farms. And electricity drives cars.

I found several groups committed to longleaf restoration on farms, parks and available spaces in the nine southeast states. The *Florida State Parks Foundation* started a *Plant a Pine* program on Earth Day aiming for 100,000 new longleaf pines in state parks by Earth Day, 2021. Supporters pay just one dollar for each tree. <https://floridastateparksfoundation.org/Trees> I think it's safe to assume these trees will be properly managed by staff in our publicly-owned state parks. I've decided to take account for my car exhaust CO₂ (a part of my carbon footprint) by making a monthly contribution. I hope some readers here will join me.

Samuel Kendall





Big Win for Birds!

Court Overturns Administration Efforts to Weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

On August 11, 2020, a federal court overturned reinterpretation of the (Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that had upended decades of enforcement and let industry polluters off the hook for killing birds. Citing the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, U.S District Court Judge Valerie Caproni wrote that "if the Department of the Interior has its way, many Mockingbirds and other migratory birds that delight people and support ecosystems throughout the country will be killed without legal consequence." Audubon, American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and other partners went to court to challenge the reinterpretation. This ruling is a much-needed win for migratory birds and the millions of Americans who cherish them. The MBTA is one of our nation's most important environmental laws. Among other things, it has spurred industry innovations to protect birds, such as screening off toxic waste pits and marking power lines for reduces collisions. A key decision to uphold the Act's strength by blocking the injurious reinterpretation comes at a key time, as we seek to restore our nation's declining bird population. *(Excerpts from ABC Press Release)*

"A Guide to Restore the Little Things that Run the World"

Presented by Doug Tallamy via Zoom

September 22, at 6:00 pm

Here is a great way to kick off the fall season. Dr. Tallamy is the author of a best-selling gardening book: [Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants](#). Doug Tallamy's perspective is the foundation for Audubon's Plants for Bird program <https://www.audubon.org/PLANTSFORBIRDS>.



During this presentation you will learn why native plants are the key to the future. Dr. Tallamy will explain the relationships that link insects (especially moths), plants, and birds. The photos are extraordinary and he connects his research with that of the recent Audubon study about the great decline of North American birds. Professor Tallamy tailored his talk to include native plants, moths, butterflies and bees found in Florida.

You must pre-register at <https://act.audubon.org/a/presentation-doug-tallamy> or under Events on the Audubon Florida Facebook page. Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation with the link from Zoom.

Thanks to Venice Area Audubon for making arrangements with Dr. Tallamy and to Audubon Florida for hosting the program so that everyone could join.

Audubon Florida Virtual Assembly 2020

Reimagining Audubon Florida: A Call for Inclusive Conservation

Oct. 19-24, 2020

Join us virtually for Florida's premier conservation event, when grassroots leaders from around the state connect with Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources.

This year's virtual event will include learning sessions, panel discussions, a chapter celebration, and field trips via video with a theme of inclusive conservation. The Keynote Presentation by J. Drew Lanham, author, poet, and wildlife biologist, will tie it all together.

For details and registration visit <https://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>

2020-2021
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/20)
SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com

Term	Board Members	Office & Committees	Email
2020-2022	Phyllis Hall	President Conservation, Outreach Web Site, Seminole College Liaison	phylliscath814@gmail.com
2019-2021	Sarah Donlan	Vice President Programs & Trips	sarahdonlan42@gmail.com
2019-2021	Jan Peters	Treasurer	jan@janetkpeters.com
2020-2022	Mindy Hellman	Secretary	mindy-hellman@usa.net
2020-2022	Jim Denslow	CLP Liaison	bdenslow@cfl.rr.com
2019-2021	Lewis Gray	Project Colony Watch Jane Isle	lewisngray@bellsouth.net
2019-2021	Leslie Martin	Programs & Trips CBC, GBBC	leslielou63@gmail.com
2020-2022	Shirley Reilly	JayWatch	shirleyreilly34@aol.com
2019-2021	Marguerite Terwilleger	Past President, Big SIT! Scholarship, Hospitality	mterwilleger51@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Cecilia Carey	MeetUp, Facebook, Email blasts	cacarey@cfl.rr.com
Shirley Folse	Phone Communication	407-797-4636
Chuck Honaker	Historian, Premiums	chonakerjr@gmail.com
Faith Jones	Newsletter Compiler	faithaudubon@gmail.com
Sam Kendall	Energy	samuelk32@embarqmail.com
Margaret Loring	New Member Welcome	mloring@cfl.rr.com
Jim Peters	Purple Martin Project	jim@jameshpeters.com
Joy Rector & Cecilia Carey	Elementary Education	joy7audubon@aol.com
Marty Shepherd	Membership	gindad@cfl.rr.com
Peggy Stickney	Publicity, Corresponding Sec.	stickneymargaret@gmail.com
Corrinne Wertz	Newsletter Editor	cwertz127@aol.com

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Introductory offer For New Members Only \$20.00/ 1 year

Join on our website SeminoleAudubon.org using Chapter Code E31

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: _____

Federally recognized 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN FLORIDA 800-435-7325. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NUMBER CH23448.