

# 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.*

November/December 2020

## Yankee Lake Treatment Facility Florida Scrub-Jays



White-tailed deer      Lewis Gray

This is the only site in Seminole County with Florida Scrub-Jays, one of the most habitat-specific, federally-listed birds. In 1993 the County applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit modification to allow the construction of Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs). Herb Kale, Florida Audubon Society Ornithologist, provided the survey and management plan that was submitted with the application. Twenty-five scrub jays were documented representing six family groups. As mitigation for the destruction of 28 acres of Florida Scrub-Jay habitat, Seminole County agreed to preserve the remaining 222 acres of scrub habitat in perpetuity for the Florida Scrub-Jays. It was estimated this

property could easily support ten families. Management of the habitat has changed several times over the years with fluctuating numbers of jays and jay families. In 2018 Environmental Science Associates (ESA) took over management of the property. Their efforts to improve the habitat have paid off with the arrival of a new family group this year. ESA is banding one member of each family group. SAS has continued to monitor the habitat and health of the Florida Scrub-Jay population. This year on October 9th a representative group from the SAS Board, Lewis Gray, Shirley Reilly, Marty Shepherd, and Phyllis Hall, toured the property with representatives from ESA who explained their habitat management activities and plans. There are currently 3 family groups composed of 7 individual Florida Scrub-Jays. We saw 5 of those individuals on this trip. We saw 18 species of birds. The highlights were a dozen Wild Turkey, a juvenile Cooper's Hawk, Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, plus a couple of White-tailed Deer.



Cooper's Hawk juv.      Lewis Gray



### "King of Yankee Lake"

This picture of Georgia, a Florida Scrub-jay who resides on the Yankee Lake Treatment Facility property, was taken by Shirley Reilly. He was given the nickname Georgia because his bands are red and black, Georgia Bulldog colors. Georgia's mate, at the time of banding, was banded with Florida Gator colors and known as Florida.

This picture was taken in 2014 on a SAS trip. At that time Georgia was believed to be about 13 years old. Florida was not seen on the 2014 trip or any subsequent SAS trips to the property. Georgia, a prolific breeder, was the dominant male for many years. He is still there! Georgia no longer breeds, and has been replaced by a younger male, but he is still with his family group.

An article posted on the FWC website references a 1996 publication by Woolenden and Fitzpatrick for the American Ornithologists' Union and states the maximum observed lifespan of a Florida Scrub-Jay is 15.5 years. At nearly 20 years of age, Georgia may well be the longest living Florida Scrub-Jay.

# Best Florida Native Plants for Birds

## Food: Fruit

Part 1 of a 5 Part Series

In this series of articles to create an inviting habitat using suggested Florida native plants to attract birds, we'll cover their habitat needs, which are food, shelter and nesting. For resident birds, it's more than just providing a buffet to stop by and fly away. Hopefully, they will want to stay to reproduce. For migrants, providing a safe stopover to refresh and feed is increasingly important considering we are still losing ground to development in Florida. The plant choices you make are important for the survival of our bird populations.

No one component or food type will function fully as a habitat. All components from different food types, shelter, nesting, and diversity will ensure more success.

Birds, of course, like people, consume a variety of foods at different stages of development in their lifetime, such as fruit, seeds, nuts, insects, and more.

Here, Series 1 suggests just a few of the many Florida native plants available that produce fruit.

Choosing the plant best suited for a yard depends on the plant culture and behavior that best match the yard conditions, such as, soil type, light, mature size, space, and more. Differing conditions can affect the growth and behaviors.

### HOLLY

Hollies are dioecious, meaning they have separate male and female plants. Only the females produce the berries.

American holly. *Ilex opaca*

Height: 30-50' Spread: 15-30' Soil: well-drained, slightly acid Light: full sun to shade

Fruit: bright red, fall-winter Evergreen

Yaupon holly. *Ilex vomitoria*

Height: 8-25' Spread: 5-15' Soil: tolerant in wide range Light: Shade to part sun

Fruit: bright red, fall-winter Evergreen

Dahoon holly. *Ilex cassine*

Height: 20-40' Spread: 8-30' Soil: moist to wet Light: full sun to part shade

Fruit: reddish orange to bright red, winter Evergreen



Northern Mockingbird on Holly

### HAWTHORN



Summerhaw

Hawthorns are in the rose family, producing apple-like fruit called haws or hips. They grow rather quickly and produce fruit around 7 years. Thorniness varies with and between species.

Summer haw. *Crataegus flava*

Height: 3-20' Spread: 3-8' Soil: dry, well-drained Light: prefers sun

Fruit: red apple-like, summer Deciduous

Parsley haw. *Crataegus marshallii*

Height: 10-20' Spread: 3-8' Soil: moist to wet Light: part shade

Fruit: bright red apple-like in fall Deciduous May sucker if roots disturbed

## HACKBERRY

Hackberry is in the elm family, characterized by rapid growth. There are four native species in Florida but only one is commercially available.

Sugarberry. *Celtis laevigata*

Height: 60-80' Spread: 30-50' Soil: best in moist but adapts Light: part shade to full sun

Fruit: reddish orange to yellowish in fall Deciduous Forms root suckers to spread

## WAX MYRTLES

Three species are native to Florida but only one is commercially available. They can improve poor soils because their roots have nitrogen-fixing bacteria, much like legumes. They are dioecious meaning only the female plants bear fruit.

Southern wax myrtle – *Myrica cerifera*

Height: 4-20' Spread: 4-20' Soil: wet to dry Light: full sun to part shade

Fruit: bluish-green with waxy coating Evergreen Can spread through root suckers



Wax Myrtle

## COFFEE FAMILY

The Rubiaceae family consists of terrestrial and predominantly woody plants, which are important as understory plants. These plants are tolerant of a wide variety of environmental conditions (soil types, altitudes, community structures, etc.) and do not specialize in one specific habitat type; although, genera within the family often specialize.

White indigo berry – *Randia aculeate*

Height: 3-10' Spread: 3-6' Soil: dry, well-drained Light: full sun to part shade

Fruit: whitish with dark purple to black pulp, year round Evergreen Often spiny Dioecious



Wild Coffee

Resources for additional research on these plants.

[www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org), [www.plantrealflorida.org](http://www.plantrealflorida.org) [www.flawildflowers.org](http://www.flawildflowers.org)

Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife, Craig N. Huegel

Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses, James H. Miller & Karl V. Miller

A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants, Rufino Osario

Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants, Gil Nelson



White Indigo Berry

Neta Villalobos-Bell. Certified Advanced Florida Master Naturalist and Land Steward, Certified Horticulture Professional, Certified National Association Interpreter. Member of Seminole Audubon Society and the Florida Native Plant Society.

# Check your Spam folder for SAS emails

SAS has converted to **MailChimp** for email service. Your first email may appear in your spam folder so check there for recent emails.

An especially important email was sent on October 15th, requesting all SAS member vote to approve the 2020-2022 board member terms for Phyllis Hall, Mindy Hellman, Shirley Reilly, Jim Denslow and to approve the proposed changes to the by-laws published in the September/October issue of *The Jay*. Please respond to that email by December 1, 2020. If you did not receive that message please send an email to [seminoleaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:seminoleaudubonsociety@gmail.com) and request a copy of that email.

## Audubon Assembly Report

Phyllis Hall, President

Audubon Assembly is 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 natural resources. This year was the first-ever virtual Assembly with programs presented each evening October 20-23 via Zoom and ending on Saturday morning, October 24. Meeting virtually also gave more people the opportunity to attend.

The first event was titled **Audubon 101: What is Audubon?** presented by Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director of Audubon Florida. Many people don't know the scope of what Audubon does. Audubon Florida was founded at the turn of the 20th century. Beyond birds, Audubon protects the natural environment, clean water, and native species important to the Sunshine State. Policies based on sound science make Audubon a unique and influential partner for decision-makers from local communities all the way up to the federal government. This was followed by a presentation highlighting the success stories of chapters across the state. Two slides from Seminole Audubon Society (SAS) were included on the Lake Jesup Park Adopt-a-Park clean up.

**The event called *Outdoor Hacks: Tips and Tricks from the Experts for Safety, Comfort, and Enjoyment in the Outdoors*** provided tips to make our outdoor experiences even better.

**The theme of this year's Assembly was *Reimagining Audubon Florida: A Call for Inclusive Conservation*.** This spring, Black birder Christian Cooper captured on video a white woman falsely accusing him of threatening her in Central Park's Ramble. This snapped into sharp focus for the birding community that, while public lands belong to all, these spaces have a history of being less welcoming and less safe for communities of color. A panel of Black outdoor enthusiasts discussed their lived experiences in the outdoors, and how allies and organizations like Audubon can work to eliminate these barriers. Another panel discussed how advocacy groups and citizens can learn to recognize and support the work being done to respond to environmental justice issues.

Virtual field trips included trips to Lake Okeechobee, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples and with coastal biologists who explained their stewardship and research.

In the agenda-setting session, Audubon Florida representatives presented the conservation action agenda for 2021. Then a representative from each regional conservation committee presented the goals for each region. The goals for the Central Florida region are: continue to promote Lake Apopka restoration, visitor access and an Audubon Nature Center; monitor and act on local and state government land use decisions impacting wildlife habitat; and increase diversity and inclusion in chapter boards and membership that reflect the diversity of the local community. The goals were voted on and approved via Zoom poll.

Assembly always ends with an inspirational speaker and this year was no exception. Drew Lanham, Ph.D. grew up in South Carolina connected with the landscape from his earliest memories. Today, he is a noted wildlife biologist, speaker, and author. Dr. Lanham is on the board of Audubon South Carolina. He writes and speaks about conservation, science, and his work in the outdoors. In 2019 he was awarded the National Audubon Society's Dan W. Lufkin Prize for Environmental Leadership, which recognizes "individuals who have dedicated their entire lives to the environment." He discussed his life experiences as a Black birder, his work in the conservation field, and his vision for the future. Each person who registered for Assembly received a copy of his book, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*.



Nat Harrison

## Welcome to Audubon Florida Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) student Nat Harrison

The CLI program provides an opportunity for college students to immerse themselves with Audubon, strengthen leadership skills, gain an understanding of future opportunities in conservation careers, and discover avenues to engage more with Audubon through chapters, internships, and volunteer opportunities. There were over 100 applicants this year with 25 accepted into the program. Nat Harrison is a student at Seminole College in environmental studies. She will graduate from there in the spring of 2021. Her career goal is to work in reconciliation ecology in city settings. Nat is the president of the Environment Club at Seminole College and is already a member of SAS. She has recently served as an intern with the Cuplet Fern chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. She also volunteered at Blue Spring with the manatee festival and she has volunteered with the SERV

program on a lake shoreline restoration. Phyllis Hall is serving as the CLI mentor for Nat. During the upcoming year, Nat will participate in SAS programs, field trips, volunteer opportunities and board activities. She has a special interest in helping SAS reach younger people through social media.

## Photovoltaic Waste

*Sam Kendall, Energy Chair*

The transition to solar energy and other clean energy sources like wind power is well under way now. All utility companies in Florida have plans for or are building solar farms. Homeowners, too, are diving in to the savings and environmental benefits. On the stock exchange, Next Era Energy (NEE), the parent company of Florida Power and Light and the largest solar and wind company in America, surpassed Exxon/Mobile in total valuation. Dow Jones Industrials has booted the fossil fuel glutton off their prestigious list.



Wall Street and Main Street are finding ways to invest in clean energy. Solar struggled many years before gaining access to the mainstream economy. Finally, money is flowing in to support it. FPL says it will install 30 million solar panels in farms across the state by 2030. *Bloomberg News* reported that solar photovoltaics (PV) was the most popular power technology in 81 countries in 2019 and accounted for nearly half of new power generation worldwide.

All this is great news! But it's only the beginning of the story. Solar panels have a lifetime of 25 to 30 years. By 2050, there will be millions, perhaps billions, of panels at the end of their productive lives. What will happen to them? California was a pioneer in solar development. I just found an article showing a warehouse full of old, expired panels. Is the next step the landfill? These panels have valuable and potentially dangerous materials inside them: glass, aluminum, some with silver, indium, zinc, tellurium.

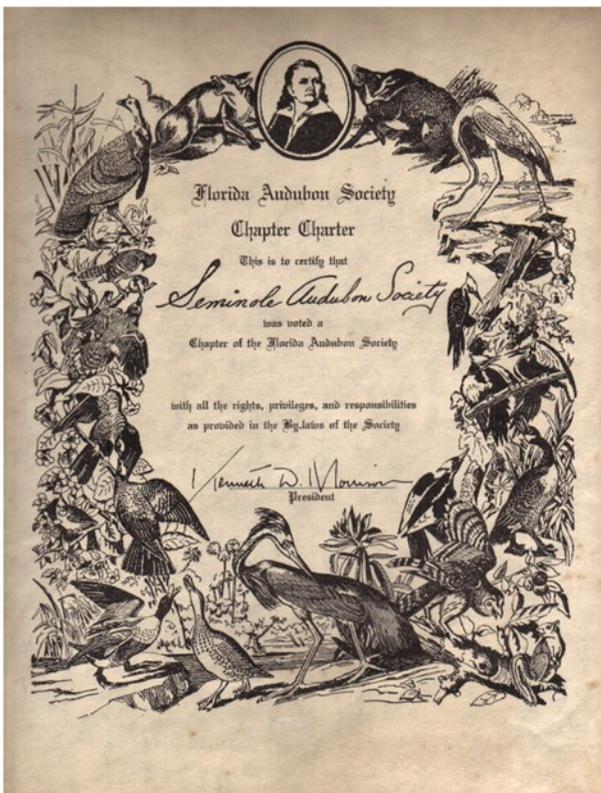
I asked NEE what they plan to do when all these panels quit producing. I was referred to their website where I found a paragraph that says most of the glass and semiconductor material can be recycled. It said solar manufacturers continue to search for recycling technologies and secondary markets for reuse. First Solar, has a facility to recycle its own panels. But I did not feel reassured that PV panels will become part of a circular economy in 2050 with zero waste, where valuable materials are carefully saved for reuse. If we leave recycling to the manufacturing industries what can we expect? Behold the current plastics pandemic! Industries usually respond to sustainability only after government action.

A decade ago the EU anticipated the possibility of a PV waste problem. They added a rule to their Waste Electronics Directive that requires PV manufacturers to ensure recycling. Here in the US, only Washington State has enacted similar requirements. Arizona, NY and NJ are said to be considering the same.

The transition from polluting energy sources extracted from the earth to an energy system that relies on sources generated from the sun is going to be rapid. It must be rapid! Fossil fuel companies and those who profit from their longevity should be preparing for the new energy order. And those already participating in the clean energy economy must be taking steps to ensure that we don't create a worse waste problem.

# A Look Back at the Seminole Audubon Society

Chuck Honaker, Historian



I recently became our Historian and a member of the conservation committee. I've been a life-long birder which led me to Seminole Audubon and JayWatch. Over the past six months, I have reviewed archival materials. This is my first of what I hope will be a regular review of key events from the 70-year history of the Seminole Audubon Society (SAS). In 1949 our Chapter was chartered in Sanford but had members from all over Seminole County and parts of neighboring Volusia County. Protecting Florida birds from extinction was a stimulus for the founding of The National Audubon Society and our own chapter and remains so today, but our scope has broadened to include many other conservation and environmental matters in our county and state. Our mission statement reflects our broad scope: **The mission of the Seminole Audubon Society chapter is to promote awareness and protection of plants and animals in the St. John's River Basin in order to sustain the beneficial coexistence of nature and humans.**

As our county and state continues to grow and develop, our chapter and its membership continue to be vigilant and involved in protecting and educating others about our unique natural environment. A recent *Orlando Sentinel* article predicted that our county may add as many as 50,000 new residents to the current 479,024 over the next 30 years. Obviously, this will bring with it the need to conserve land areas for the protection of plants and animals, while providing natural spaces for the public. Recently, Florida Audubon, along with other groups, county officials and citizens, had a hand in successfully opposing the proposed River Cross development near our eastern border with the Econlockhatchee River. This large project threatened our legal voter-approved rural boundary and aimed to expand residential and commercial intrusion in a sensitive natural area.

We have to thank our past and long-term members for their insightful work to conserve, protect and preserve birds (Purple Martins, Bald Eagles and our endemic Florida Scrub- Jays) and our natural resources like the St. Johns River, Crystal Lake Preserve and Black Bear Wilderness Area which offer us respite from our busy lives in the great outdoors in our ever-growing county and state.

From 1999-2002, as our county continued to develop and add roads, SAS was part of a successful legal action to update the 1988 Wekiva River Protection Plan. As part of the settlement agreement, a compromise was made that allowed a higher density development within the Wekiva Protection Area in exchange for unused acreage at the Yankee Lake Water Treatment facility being transferred into the Seminole County Natural Lands Program. This expanded protection to a large tract of property in the unique Wekiva River Basin in the northwest part of Seminole County. The acreage from this settlement agreement was combined with an adjoining piece of land already under conservation and became what we know today as Black Bear Wilderness Area. These areas are now home to a trail network and a large assortment of wildlife including Florida Black Bears.

In 2007, SAS and Save the Manatee Club along with financial support from individuals and the Friends of the Wekiva were part of a successful legal challenge to the City of DeBary's plan to allow a 100-plus acre development and a marina on the shores of the St. Johns River. This would have had a negative impact on the unique waterways, plants and animals in and around the St. Johns and its confluence with the Wekiva River and the preserved and protected land abutting those areas.

In 2013, then SAS President Faith Jones was asked to add an item to the Seminole County Time capsule, to be opened in 2063, from our long-established organization. She provided a current copy of *The Jay* to reflect the essence of our chapter. I will continue to submit more historic perspectives in future issues as we continue to focus on our still-relevant mission in 2020 and the years ahead.

Keep Up With SAS

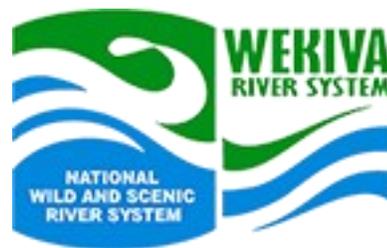
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# Program Notes

## Wekiva Wild and Scenic River by Ambassador Ashley Konon

SAS held its first Zoom meeting on September 13th with guest speaker Ashley Konon, River Ambassador for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System. The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was created in 1968. Ashley explained her role as River Ambassador as well as the criteria for a river to be designated as a Wild and Scenic River. There are 226 National Wild and Scenic Rivers including 16 Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers throughout the United States. We are fortunate to have one in our geographic area! October was the 20th year of this designation for the Wekiva River.



Celebrations in October included education sessions and canoeing/kayaking trips. The Wekiva River System designation includes 41.6 miles and passes through three counties: Orange, Lake, and Seminole. More than 2 million people live within 30 miles of the river system. As part of Ashley's role as River Ambassador, she participates in research projects on turtles, fish, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and dragonfly nymph collection for mercury level monitoring. The advisory committee for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River is composed of representatives from the towns, counties, and various agencies in the Wekiva River System. One member is the Friends of the Wekiva River (FOWR). Faith Jones, SAS member, serves as treasurer for FOWR. Phyllis Hall and Cecilia Carey represent SAS at advisory committee meetings.



### The Big Sit!

A group of Seminole Sitters gathered at Lake Jesup Park Sunday October 11th for some social-distanced birding during the 2020 Big Sit! The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. We documented 41 species including Limpkins, a Bald Eagle, and three Wood Storks.



Thanks to the sharp eye of Eli Scaperow, we all were able to see Purple Gallinules. It was fun observing three juvenile Purple Gallinules scamper around while tugging on and nibbling at weeds. Thank you to Lewis Gray for the bird photos.

Seminole Audubon Society is part of Seminole County's Adopt-a-Park program and we have "adopted" Lake Jesup Park. The Big Sit! provided an opportunity to pick up some litter while birding.



Limpkin



Purple Gallinule adult and juvenile



Peregrine Falcon juvenile

# Trip Notes

## Blue Heron River Tour

Phyllis Hall, President



Great Egret Shirley Reilly

Thursday, September 17

As we floated on the St Johns River, Captain Josh gave an excellent talk on the history of the river as well as interesting facts on the fauna and flora that we saw. To allow for proper social distancing,

the group was limited to 20 people. We saw 20 species of birds and logged them on eBird including common gallinule, limpkin, anhinga, great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, little blue heron, black vulture, osprey, red shouldered hawk, red-winged blackbird, and boat-tailed grackle. The highlight was seeing a flock

of about 50 anhinga while we were waiting at the dock. Anhingas are short-distance, partial migrants. The northernmost birds, from coastal South Carolina and south Georgia, move south to Florida or Mexico for the winter. We wondered if these anhingas were arriving as migrators or gathering to travel farther south.



American Alligator Shirley Reilly



Masked and Socially Distanced Participants on the Blue Heron River Tour Boat

Cecilia Cary

## Princess Place Preserve

Sarah Donlan, VP



Peregrine Falcon juv.

Florida's hidden corners are second to none in the world of nature and environment and accessibility. Princess Place Preserve in Palm Coast, Flagler County, is no exception, a wonderful jewel of a place. An historic estate left to Flagler for the use of its residents is available to everyone in Central Florida.



Participants at Princess Place Preserve

Sarah Donlan

A group of Seminole Audubon Birders came together to check out the migratory birds, marsh birds and general wildlife on the estate. The weather was spot-on perfect for October fall in Florida. Small warblers, woodpeckers, egrets and assorted other usual local birds were found in abundance. We documented 24 species. The bird fare is like a scavenger hunt, turning our binoculars in circles to see all that the huge tree stands had to offer. It's exciting to find old friends as well as lifers.

Set on Pellicer Creek and the Matanzas River, Princess Place Preserve offers something for kayakers, birdwatchers, hikers, campers and glampers. Magnificent trees were a treat to see as we looked for migrating birds and local stay-at-homes. The hike is through massive Oaks, Palms and Pines and showcases artesian springs and tidal salt marshes, as well as the massive root systems of these ecosystems.

Most of us had not been there before and since it is just a little over an hour from home, all of us are looking forward to going back again soon. Birds await us!!

# Upcoming Programs

Because of continued concerns about COVID-19, our monthly programs will be held on Zoom for the foreseeable future. To join the meetings, use the link below each meeting description or copy and paste the address into your browser. We appreciate your patience with us as we all learn to use Zoom together!

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.

## Understanding Coyote Behavior in Florida

**Sunday November 8 at 2:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84648403391?pwd=eHJFbXRsaEV3TIRYWk9YWTR3N3Fwdz09>

Meeting ID: 846 4840 3391

Passcode: 371312

Catherine Kennedy, a senior biological scientist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, will share information about coyote biology, behavior, and their history. She will explain how to prevent interactions, how to reduce conflicts, and how to keep your pets safe if a coyote is encountered.



Photo Courtesy of FWC

## Florida Birds Exposed by Juanita Baker, Ph.D.

**Sunday December 13 at 2:00 pm**

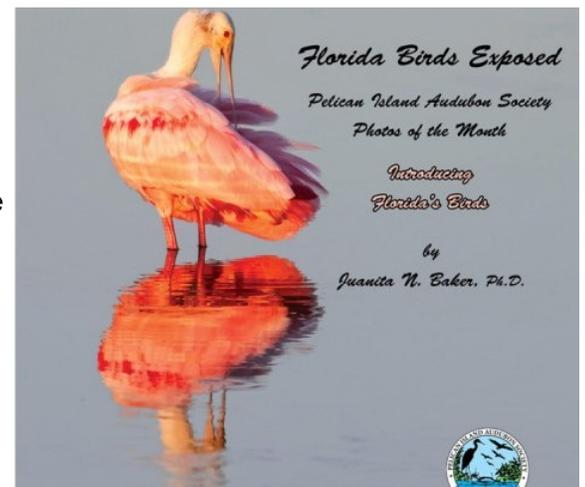
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88455412425?pwd=cDRRUGFmZ25JaHlrWE9laERCGRG1rdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5541 2425

Passcode: 371312

Juanita will share stories and photos from her book, *Florida Birds Exposed*. She explains that Florida has varied habitat, climate, and what birds choose and need. Juanita will share the human impact and what we can do to save these beautiful birds. Her book is illustrated by 'Bird Photo of the Month' winners (52 photographers) selected by the Pelican Island Audubon Society from 2009 to 2019. Each is accompanied by essays describing unique attributes and behaviors of the featured birds representing the major families of birds in Florida. Poems, as well as stunning photographs, will inspire the reader.



The book can be purchased online at:

<https://pelicanislandaudubonsociety.wpcomstaging.com/home-page/florida-birds-exposed/>. All proceeds help support the Pelican Island Audubon Society.

## 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.*

### Wekiva Basin Banding Station

November 15, 2020 – Sunday

The banding station is located in Altamonte Springs at Lake Lotus Park. This is an all-volunteer citizen-science project led by certified bander Andy Boyle. Mist nets are set in approximately 6 acres of mixed habitat. The banding station is open on Sunday mornings from the beginning of August when fall migration starts until the end of May when all migrants have left the state and the local birds continue to raise their broods. Peak season is usually October/November and March/April. Limited parking on Gateway Drive on 414/Maitland Blvd., which is just prior to the ranger gate to the park. The banding station has a locked, gated entrance. Meet Phyllis Hall on Gateway Drive at 7:30 am. Limited to 10 people. Reservation required. Contact Phyllis Hall at [phylliscath814@gmail.com](mailto:phylliscath814@gmail.com)



### Wekiva Christmas Bird Count

December 19, 2020 – Saturday

*This is the longest-running, community science project in the world. SAS will form groups to survey in the Sanford area. No birding experience necessary. The results will be used to help determine the long-term health and status of bird populations. Using a circle with a 15-mile diameter, SAS will concentrate on Zones 10 and 11 in Sanford and Lake Mary. To volunteer, contact Leslie Martin at [woodstork.martin@gmail.com](mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com)*

### Join the Christmas Bird Count



You can add to a century of community science data by signing up



## North Shore Birding Festival 2020

The North Shore Birding Festival, Dec. 3-7, 2020, is perfect for visitors interested in learning more about local wildlife. The festival highlights the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,00-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, a birding hotspot, with 42 field trips over 4 days. Trips allow driving into parts of the North Shore otherwise inaccessible except on foot or bicycle. Most trips are focused on birding, but there are three Sunrise Photography and Birding trips. Each trip has a charge of \$10 to \$70, which supports Orange Audubon Society's nature and environmental center fund or related educational programs. There is no additional festival registration fee.

Visit <https://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival/> to see details and register. If you have any questions, email [festival@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:festival@orangeaudubonfl.org) or call (407) 637-2525.



# EagleWatch

Sarah Donlan, Vice President

Anticipation is always high at the end of August or first of September when our Seminole County Eagles come back for their nesting season. Although they are not banded we believe they migrate to southern Georgia, leaving in May or early June.

Michelle Vaughn and I observe 3 assigned nests on a regular basis and have actually got 3 more that we cover. Our 3 individual nests are in close proximity to one another. The other 3 are spread out on the route that we take to our usual grouping. We are usually hot on the trail if there is a random sighting of an Eagle that looks far from where we expect one to be. This year we have

two additional possibilities that we will follow up on.

Important data is reported in an online data base and year-to-year information provides Audubon with valuable statistics to evaluate just how the population is doing. Next to Alaska, Florida has the largest eagle population in the country.

Daphne & Darwin, Rhett & Scarlett, and Wyatt & Miss Kitty return each year to their same abode. Volunteering with this group of majestic beauties is an easy task. They share nest building and security, as well as feeding young. It's exciting and challenging. We'll keep you posted.

## Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile ON in the app and Amazon donates 



## Donate to SAS– It costs you nothing

Have you heard? Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the **same products, prices, and shopping features** as Amazon.com. What is the difference? When you shop on AmazonSmile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

CHOOSE US! and do your holiday shopping at AmazonSmile to make the Seminole Audubon Society smile! Every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) at the same price. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Already have an Amazon account? To add this feature to your current account simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), log in with your current login and password.

## Premiums Available for Donations to SAS

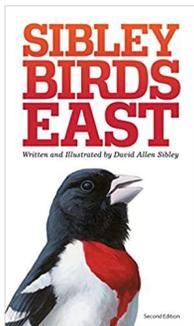
Seminole Audubon Society usually provides good quality bird seed at our monthly meetings for a small donation. Since we are currently meeting on Zoom, Chuck Honaker is offering to deliver these to you.



Black oil sunflower seed is available for suggested donations of \$3 per 1-quart bag or 2 bags for \$5. Added this season is a new size: a 1-gallon bag for a suggested donation of \$9.

The popular Sibley field guide *Birds of Eastern North America* is available for a suggested donation of \$15.

Contact Chuck Honaker to schedule a place and time to meet. [cwh.jr@hotmail.com](mailto:cwh.jr@hotmail.com)



# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS or new to our Chapter

- |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Stanley Buffiloski      | Sanford   |
| Bernice Freelove        | Deltona   |
| Dale Haag               | Sanford   |
| Fred King               | Sanford   |
| Zenia Krase             | Lake Mary |
| Carolyn Lawrence        | Deltona   |
| Ryk Naves               | Sanford   |
| Brenda Otto             | DeBary    |
| Shirley Phillips        | Osteen    |
| Kathleen Poole          | Sanford   |
| Pedro Quintana-Ascencio | Sanford   |
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| George Stiffey          | Sanford   |
| J. Vincent              | Lake Mary |

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

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2019-2021	Sarah Donlan	Vice President Programs & Trips	sarahdonlan42@gmail.com
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2019-2021	Lewis Gray	Project Colony Watch Jane Isle	lewisgray@bellsouth.net
2019-2021	Leslie Martin	Programs & Trips CBC, GBBC	woodstork.martin@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	cwh.jr@hotmail.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	jjim@jameshpeters.com
Joy Rector & Cecilia Carey	Elementary Education	joy7audubon@aol.com
Marty Shepherd	Membership	gindad@cfl.rr.com
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