

# 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 2021

## SAS Had an Active Summer and Has Planned a Fantastic Season

The SAS Board and Committee Chairs, pictured on this page along with others, were active over the summer months working on various projects and planning our upcoming season. Here is a summary of what was done, and what is planned.

### Eagle Release in Honor of Shirley Reilly

Michelle Vaughn and Sarah Donlan were invited to the release of two eagle fledglings from Birds of Prey Center on May 21. One was rescued by the Birds of Prey Center at a construction site near a nest on Lake Monroe that Sarah monitors. He was severely malnourished and dehydrated.



Shirley Reilly



Michelle Vaughn with Reilly  
Photo by Sarah Donlan

They named him Reilly after Audubon Board member, dedicated activist and eagle watcher Shirley Reilly who passed away in May. They have rescued and released an unusual number of fledglings this year. Sarah and Michelle will be monitoring both eagles going forward which they consider a privilege and exciting as well.



SAS 2021-2022 Officers

Jan Peters, Leslie Martin, Phyllis Hall, Peggy Stickney



Committee Chairs: Marguerite Terwilliger Lewis Gray, Marty Shepherd, Sarah Donlan, Jim Peters



# SAS Helps with EcoCamp

Cecilia and John Carey along with Phyllis Hall were happy to represent SAS at Seminole County's 2021 Summer Adventure Eco Camp! The camp was held at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center at Geneva Wilderness Area.



EcoCampers on a birding walk  
Photo by Phyllis Hall

For Junior Birder Week, Cecilia gave a presentation on how to identify birds and the campers went birding in upland and wetland habitats. The campers were excited to see several species of birds including Roseate Spoonbills, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Wood Storks, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

For Animal Superpowers Week, Cecilia gave a presentation on the special adaptations of Osprey, Anhinga, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds. Campers went on a walk to see birds in action and played Bird Bingo. Over the years, SAS has helped pay tuition costs for



EcoCamp at Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva  
Wilderness Area  
Photo by John Carey



Cecilia helping some of the campers with the activity  
Photo by John Carey

## Purple Martin Take Down



On July 20th, Cecilia & John Carey, Lewis Gray, and Jan & Jim Peters met at Marina Island North Shore Park on Lake Monroe to take down the Purple Martin gourds Seminole Audubon maintains in cooperation with the City of Sanford. The martins have already headed back to South America where they spend most of the year. It was time to take down the gourds for cleaning and storage.

It was a successful nesting season for the birds – all 16 gourds had nesting material in them. This year, the individual nests were weighed. The largest nest weighed 8.25 ounces, which is quite a feat as the

Purple Martins usually bring only 1 or 2 items in at a time. The nests were composed of Sabal Palmetto fronds, oak leaves, and various mulch materials. The heaviest nests also contained a fair amount of mud or soil mixed in.

We look forward to the return of the Purple Martins next January when they should come back for another nesting season.

Pictured are two of the nests along with an unhatched egg that was found in a gourd. The egg was 1 inch long.

Photo by Jim Peters







Eastern Tiger Swallowtail      Lewis Gray

## Butterfly Count

Butterfly surveys at Crystal Lake Preserve began in 2011 with monthly surveys that year by Marty Shepherd and her daughter-in-law with assistance from other SAS volunteers. Also beginning in 2011, annual counts have been conducted around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as part of the North American Butterfly Association



butterfly counts. The primary surveyors were Faith Jones and Connie Dolan.

This year, Cuplet Fern Native Plant Chapter was the lead in organizing the survey on July 24. There were 13 of us so the plant people removed and identified plants along the way and helped find butterflies.



During and after the survey, they removed invasive plants. SAS volunteers were Connie Dolan, Phyllis Hall, Leslie Martin, and Lewis Gray. Since Connie has done the surveys in the past with Faith Jones, she was the leader for the survey.

The Butterfly Count results were:

- 8 Black Swallowtail,
- 2 Eastern Tiger Swallowtail,
- 4 Palamedes Swallowtail,
- 1 Zebra Heliconian,
- 1 Gulf Fritillary,
- 2 Variegated Fritillary,
- 4 White Peacock,
- 2 Horace's Duskywing

It was a good learning experience for all.



Horace's Duskywing      Photo by Lewis Gray



Florida Leaf-footed Bug  
Photo by Lewis Gray

## Upcoming Programs

Due to continued concerns about COVID-19, our September program will be held **online via Zoom**. Meeting notices with the link will be sent to everyone on our distribution list. If you haven't received the notice by September 8, contact [SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com](mailto:SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com)

### Dark Sky in Florida by Madelline Mathis

September 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever seen the Milky Way? If so, you are one of the lucky ones. Light pollution is a problem that has been increasing by 2% every year since the 1950s and as a result, 99% of people now live under light-polluted night skies (where star visibility is minimal). Light pollution from improperly chosen fixtures has negative impacts on human health, safety, birds and bird migration, other wildlife, and plants. An Arizona-based nonprofit, International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), was founded in 1988 to protect pristine night skies and mitigate the already present light pollution through educating lighting designers, manufacturers, technical committees, and the public about controlling light pollution. They do this through the promotion of quality, responsible outdoor lighting, certified with a Fixture Seal of Approval as well as certifying cities, parks, and other places that have specific dark sky policies/ordinances that reduce light pollution and actively work to educate the public about the impacts of light pollution.

Dark Sky continued on page 4

## Upcoming Programs    **Dark Sky in Florida** (continued from page 3)

Madelline Mathis is a Rollins College 2020 alumna with a degree in Environmental Studies and minor in Psychology. She serves on her family board, the Brown Foundation, and volunteers weekly at the Boys and Girls Club of Eatonville to help manage their garden. During weekdays she is working full-time at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as an Environmental Specialist I and part-time as a consultant for the City of Groveland, helping them through the process of becoming the first Florida International Dark-Sky Certified Community. She grew up in the first IDA Certified Community in Texas, and this designation allowed her to see the Milky Way from her backyard, inspiring her passion for dark skies.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82683462040?pwd=dm9BTURIVGhUa1VNMGpEMWc1YkZGUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 8346 2040    Passcode: 428236    One tap mobile +19292056099,,82683462040# US (New York)



### **The Big Sit!    Lake Jesup Park    Sunday October 10**

This event replaces our regular monthly meeting. This is an annual, international event hosted by New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. Some people have called it a “tailgate party for birders.” We sit inside a circle (under a tent) and count all the bird species we see or hear. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. Come for an hour or two or for the entire time. Bring your own binoculars, chair, water and snacks. *Lake Jesup Park, 5951 Sanford Avenue, Sanford. 7:00 am-12 noon.* Accessible parking space. No restrooms.

We welcome all those who would like to enjoy time in nature. This gathering is accessible for all including those who have a disability, persons with a mobility challenge, blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, persons who are neurodivergent or persons with any other intellectual, developmental or physical disability or concern. See Birdability information in article on the next page.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### **Seminole State Forest    Saturday September 18**

The endemic Florida Scrub-Jay is restricted to Florida's ever-decreasing sand pine scrub habitat. The 30,000-acre Seminole State Forest hosts a relatively stable population of this friendly and charismatic bird. Possible sightings include Sandhill Crane, Wild Turkey, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Bluebird and pineland specialties such as Bachman's Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Guided tour by Ralph Risch, Florida Forest Service.

Meet at 8:00 am at the Bear Pond Trailhead located off of State Road 46, Wekiva River Rd, Sorrento, FL 32776. From Interstate 4 exit 101C at Sanford, take SR 46 west for 5.2 miles. After you cross the Wekiva River, watch for signs for the entrance to Seminole State Forest on the right. At Bear Lake Road, take a right. Then turn left to the Seminole Forest Road. Continue about a mile on the forest road. Parking at the trailhead. Vault toilets available. Moderate walking over uneven terrain. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. Contact Sarah Donlan 407-687-6087 or email [sarahdonlan42@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdonlan42@gmail.com)





# Join a Central Florida Audubon Assembly Field Trip Sat. October 30

Details and sign up at <https://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>.

Central Florida field trips will be on October 30 with morning trip options to: Mead Garden, tram or walking tours at Orlando Wetlands, or a driving tour of Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. The networking lunch will be at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland about 12:30 p.m. Reservations required for field trips and networking lunch.

Goal setting and keynote segments will be held via Zoom on November 9.

Field trips and gatherings in other parts of the state are: October 23 in Live Oak (between Tallahassee and Jacksonville) and November 6 at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples. Watch your mail and email for more detail as the dates get closer.

If you are not getting mail or emails from FL Audubon or National Audubon, your membership may have expired. Become a member again with the link on the SAS website: <https://seminoleaudubon.org/membership/> Be sure to select chapter code E31. Memberships are assigned based on zip code. Selecting E31 ensures that your membership will remain with Seminole Audubon Society.

## Seminole Audubon Plans Our First Birdability Outing

*Leslie Martin*

The mission of Birdability is to share the joys of birding with people who have disabilities, and to ensure birding is accessible to everybody.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> SAS will have our first purposely accessible and inclusive bird outing at Lake Jesup Park on the day of The Big Sit!

When planning an accessible outing Birdability offers resources including access considerations, writing event descriptions, inclusive language use and adaptive birding equipment. They also feature a Birdability Map in partnership with National Audubon Society that allows users to access specific details about sites like parking, ramps, trail surfaces and slope, gates, railings or other obstructions and restrooms.

Details about accessibility at Lake Jesup Park are available on the map on the Birdability web site or at [GIS.audubon.org/birdability](https://GIS.audubon.org/birdability). There is no search function yet; zoom in on Central Florida and find the yellow diamond just south of Sanford on the north shore of Lake Jesup.

You are also encouraged to submit reviews on accessible sites not yet listed by filling out a user-friendly Birdability Site Review Checklist. Visit them at [Birdability.org](https://birdability.org) to learn so much more.

This gathering is for anyone who has a disability; persons with a mobility challenge, blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, persons who are neurodivergent or persons with any other intellectual, developmental or physical disability or concern. New birders are welcome! We will also have binoculars to borrow and a spotting scope.

Seminole Audubon Society The Big Sit!  
Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Lake Jesup Park—5951 S Sanford Ave.  
Sanford, FL 32771

If you would like more information please contact Leslie Martin at [woodstork.martin@gmail.com](mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com) or 303-725-7296. For a list of other Seminole County accessible parks visit <https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/core/fileparse.php/3238/urlt/List-of-Accessible-ParksADA.pdf>



# Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone

The Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone (FORCE) includes 50 organizations representing thousands of members from across Florida and beyond. Its mission is to restore the Ocklawaha as a free-flowing River, reconnecting the Silver and St. Johns Rivers, and elevating the regional benefits for all. Marguerite Terwilliger attended the June 30th FORCE meeting in McIntosh, FL. The goal of the meeting was to inspire, engage and unite coalition leadership and members for the upcoming intense nine months of action. Many of the coalition members were there, and it was impressive to see the work they have accomplished so far towards restoring the Ocklawaha. The program started with a slide show highlighting the progress made over the past year. Various speakers updated attendees on new science and economic work, communications, and advocacy progress. The day ended with a Planning Session during which breakout groups brainstormed on the next action steps.

The current strategy really reflects a staged approach to a decades-old movement. The first step is not to remove the dam entirely but to permanently open the gates to allow the lowest possible water level which will expose approximately 80% of the river channel and forest bottom, providing an opportunity for regrowth. Additionally, we are talking about including upgrades to recreational amenities in the area and some other related items that are good for the region and should help get more support for the total plan. The Great Florida River Way documentary is an

excellent source for more information. <https://greatfloridariverway.com/documentary/>



Image courtesy of FORCE

You may recall in January, 2021 Margaret Spontak, Chair of the Free the Ocklawaha Coalition, spoke to SAS on the importance of freeing the Ocklawaha by breaching a portion of the Rodman Dam which was built as part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The Ocklawaha River, the largest tributary of the St. Johns River, has been impounded since 1968 by a dam built before the Canal was stopped. Construction of the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam destroyed 7,500 acres of floodplain forest. It has impeded 16 miles of river flow with subsequent buildup of aquatic weeds as well as impeding the movement of manatee and fish. It has also submerged over 20 freshwater springs which reduces flow to the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers. The Rodman Dam sits in the middle of the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor. Adding forest wetlands would help the Florida panther, Florida black bear, and listed birds such as Snail Kites, Wood storks, and Roseate Spoonbills. It would also help populations of songbirds, wading birds, and other wildlife. In June Phyllis Hall (SAS), Marguerite Terwilliger (SAS) and Deborah Green (Orange) met via Zoom with Liz Neville, Esq., Senior Representative Gulf Coast for Defenders of Wildlife. She is also one of the chairs of the Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone (FORCE) Advocacy Committee working with Margaret Spontak. The meeting focused on the plan to meet with Senator Brodeur as constituents and advocates for the Ocklawaha River focusing on the need for a great river waterway similar to the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The meeting and a trip with Senator Brodeur are scheduled for late August.





# Cities Fighting Climate Change

Sam Kendall

The most startling piece of climate information I've seen recently came in May from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are larger now than they have been in more than four million years. This is shocking! There are 419 parts per million! US residents and other wealthy country humans are largely responsible by our acquiescent acceptance of the transportation, food production and electricity corporations provide. Efforts to bring down these CO2 levels are underway but the transition away from a carbon-based society challenges us in so many ways.

Altamonte Springs has accepted the challenge. In 2017 the city negotiated with Duke Energy for the right to pursue new electricity sources for city-owned buildings and services such as street lights. They created the independent Altamonte Electric Utility (AEU) with the objective to save taxpayers money and reduce their carbon footprint.

In their first major project they have taken the solar farm concept off the farm. They floated a solar array on the retention pond at their wastewater treatment plant. The location is perfect to offset the power-hungry pumps and other equipment at the facility; 40% of city electricity is consumed right there. Anchored to shore to withstand winds of 126 mph the floating 2430 panels are expected to offset about 80 percent of the treatment plant power needs; a \$115,000 annual savings for the city. Future projects for the AEU may include chemical fuel cells, rooftop solar, battery storage and other technologies. EV charging stations are available for city employees.



Solar panels in Altamonte Springs

Reaching these astonishing levels of atmospheric CO2 means we are only at the beginning of climate chaos. Now the overheating and drying out of the earth is starting to accelerate. Florida won't escape droughts like we've seen out west. The Florida Climate Center reported that a severe or widespread drought occurred somewhere in Florida every decade in the 20th century. Greenhouse gases will ensure drought intensity will be much worse this century.

Super abundant quantities of rain and flooding may be our greatest nemesis. Salt waters may eventually rise to the levels of millions of years ago and salt will again be found in the aquifer. Rationing of available clean water seems highly probable. Climate refugees are already leaving the coasts for Ocala and higher ground.

This year our governor signed a law (SB1128) that restrains local governments that are attempting to reduce fossil fuel use. I think Altamonte Springs will be only marginally affected because the city had the foresight to create their own utility service. Gov. DeSantis will not be able to restrain the battering storms, scorching dry spells and ruinous flooding climate scientists tell us to expect. Cities like Altamonte Springs can be models for action and provide hope that we can decarbonize our fossil society before the worst of times.



# Microforests: Another Climate Mitigation Tool

Sam Kendall

Last month Phyllis and I attended the Audubon Climate Leadership quarterly zoom call. These calls are an opportunity for chapters to share information on local climate mitigation strategies and education outreach. The feeling is that climate discussion should be more visible among chapters and communities.

We had an update on the Audubon greenhouse gas inventory program where students and municipality staff members are trained to inventory greenhouse gases. Eighteen municipalities/counties are participating including Seminole County. This data will provide local governments a way to measure the success of ghg reduction programs.



Solutions To Avoid Red Tide  
Preserving Our Coastal Waters  
START1.ORG

I was intrigued by the Venice Area Audubon project to build a microforest. They partnered with a number of different organizations including START (Solutions To Avoid Red Tide) and Florida Veterans for Common Sense.

Microforests were introduced by Japanese biologist Akira Miyawaki in the 1970s. Native trees and understory species are planted very close to each other to encourage a maximum growth rate in competition for light. The density forces faster growth and creates biodiversity greater than conventional forests. It's reported that carbon stored in a thirty-year-old microforest compares favorably with that in an old growth forest.

The Audubon coalition, called Sarasota Urban ReForesters (SURF), built their forest on 1/3 acre of former celery fields. The site was chosen in part to intercept, retain and purify water runoff. Cardboard was used to cover and kill the grass. The area was then covered with wood chip mulch. Native tree saplings were planted and then forty volunteers gathered to install the understory plants. Another mini-forest was created shortly after that at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota.



I can think of so many applications for microforests: schools with large areas of grass usually cut with carbon-spewing mowers could install carbon-storing microforests as part of biology classes; grass-covered highway medians could be converted; heat island cities could lower their temperatures with small microforests in abandoned and unused spaces. Microforests can rebuild our depleted biological infrastructure and help stabilize climate.

Celery field microforest: <https://start1.org/news/microforest-planted-at-celery-fields/>

Nathan Benderson Park microforest: <https://start1.org/news/new-microforest-at-nathan-benderson-park/>





# Featured Species

## Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Faith Jones

A black-masked bandit, the Loggerhead Shrike is the only shrike endemic to North America. It is the southern cousin of the Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*) that is found in the northern U.S., Canada, and Siberia.

Loggerhead Shrikes are about 9" in length, making them slightly larger than a Northern Cardinal and slightly smaller than a Northern Mockingbird. They are sharply patterned in gray, black, and white with a bold black mask. Their thick beaks have a hook on the tip. Males and females look alike. They are resident birds in Florida. Their heads are larger in proportion to their bodies than most birds. The word "loggerhead" means blockhead, or a disproportionately large head.



Outside of breeding season, Loggerhead Shrikes are solitary birds who furiously defend their territories. Their preferred habitat is open to semi-open countryside with short vegetation and patches of bare ground. Shrikes like areas with plenty of hunting perches. Their diet consists of insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They have been known to take birds up to mockingbird size!

Characteristic feeding behavior of shrikes is to impale their prey on a twig or the barb on a barbed wire fence. The genus name for shrikes, *Lanius*, is Latin for butcher. "Butcherbird" is a common nickname for shrikes.

According to Breeding Bird Surveys the Loggerhead Shrikes population declined 76% between 1966 and 2015. In addition to habitat loss, this species has been hurt by excessive pesticide use.

On a rainy April morning at Ft. DeSoto a few SAS members were able to observe a Loggerhead Shrike fly from his hunting perch, capture his prey, and return to the perch. We then watched as he impaled an anole on a twig. The "butcherbird" then proceeded to consume his breakfast. I am grateful that John Carey was able to capture this series of pictures of the event, and inspire me to choose the Loggerhead Shrike as the first bird in my Featured Species series of articles that will run in the newsletter this season.



Impaling the prey on twig



Once the prey is secure on the twig breakfast begins



Meal lasted until the prey was totally consumed

Photos by John Carey

### Sources:

Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. The Birder's Handbook: a Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds. Simon & Schuster, New York.

Sibley, David Allen Sibley. The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior. 2001. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

# Current Issues with Bird Feeding

Faith Jones

You may have seen these problems reported in the news this summer. Some state wildlife authorities have issued warnings and requested citizens to take down bird feeders and birdbaths. Since late May there have been reports in Eastern and Midwest states, including Florida, of dead or sick birds. Apparent neurological disorders and diseased eyes have been reported. The cause of these ailments is yet to be determined. Birds tested in Indiana have tested negative for Avian Influenza and West Nile virus.

Similar to humans, disease spreads more rapidly among birds where they gather, such as your feeders or birdbaths. Hopefully you care about the well-being of our feathered friends and neighbors and you avoid doing things that could cause harm. Bird feeders should be only supplemental to the food birds can find from native plants. Native plants attract critters that are bird's primary source of protein. They also can provide a direct food source in the form of seeds, berries, and nuts.

Natural food sources are plentiful this time of year. For thousands of years, birds have been able to find new food supplies when a formerly reliable one is depleted. Healthy birds will not starve if you stop feeding them. Crowded bird feeders can enable the spread of disease and infections, or even kill birds that use them. Think about the fact that a bird who is not feeling 100% is going to seek an easy meal, such as one he can find at a feeder.

The best thing you can do to prevent the spread of disease is to **KEEP YOUR FEEDERS CLEAN!** Follow these steps on a regular basis.

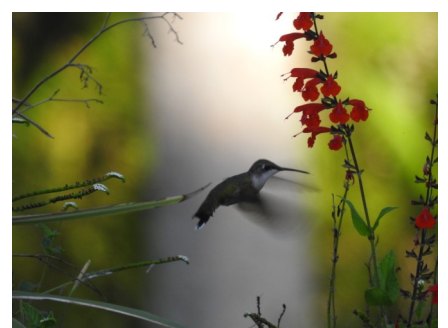
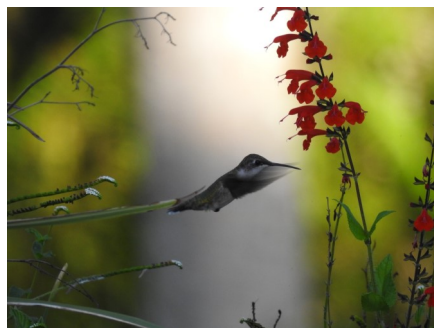
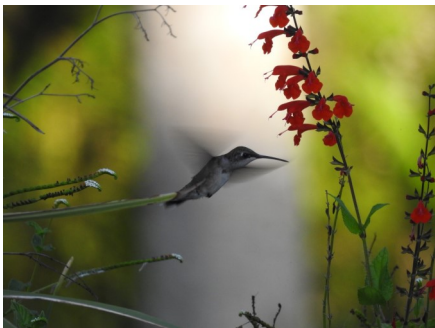
- Empty any remaining seed,
- Scrape out any goop that may have accumulated,
- Wash with a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach/9 parts water),
- Rinse thoroughly,
- Let them air dry,
- Refill with as much fresh seed as the birds will eat in **one day**.
- Clean the area under your feeders. Take up any uneaten seed or shells as they may not only mold, but can attract unwanted visitors.

Birdbaths also need to be kept clean. Empty the birdbath. Wash it with a 10% bleach solutions, scrubbing away any gunk that may have accumulated. A 10% white vinegar solution can also be used. Once it is cleaned, rinse and refill.

If you find a dead bird (not one that was obviously killed by a cat or struck a window), do not touch it. You should pick it up in a plastic bag, and contact Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission at 888-404-FWCC [3922]. They may want the carcass for testing or they will instruct you on proper disposal. Or, you can report infected birds on this FWC website for "wild bird die-off surveillance".

<https://legacy.myfwc.com/bird/default.asp>

The good news is hummingbirds have not been victims of this mysterious ailment. Hummingbird feeders also need to be cleaned on a regular basis. If your feeder is in direct sun, the nectar may need to be changed **daily** this time of year.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird pictures taken by Joy Rector. Hummingbirds come to their yard every year. "The morning after 2004 Hurricane Charley I went outside. I was saddened by losing around 100 trees on our 14 acres. Then in the **bottle brush bush** I saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. I smiled and thought- 'how did you survive?' I know all is well."



# ICELAND IN JUNE 2021

Jim & Jan Peters

SAS members Jim and Jan Peters toured and photographed in the southern half of Iceland during the month of June. Along with our son Mark we hiked a long mountain trail to view the currently-erupting Fagradalsfjall Volcano on our 47th wedding anniversary on June 1. The volcano is located near the town of Grindavik near the Reykjavik (capital city) airport. Also nearby is the famous Blue Lagoon which is a thermal resort created in conjunction with an electric power plant. It captures much of the heat to generate electricity prior to sending the cooler water to the lagoon for guests such as ourselves.



June 1, 2021 Fagradalsfjall Volcano

Jim Peters



Atlantic Puffins

Photos by Jim Peters

It was nesting season for birds, so we saw many mating dances as well as nests with eggs and others with babies. We observed Atlantic Puffins at three locations and were very fortunate to photograph some of them bringing small fish in their beaks back to their nests.

There were thousands of Arctic Terns throughout our trip, and there were road signs "Warning - Nesting Grounds, Birds on Road". We learned that these birds are the migratory distance champions of all birds. After spending the summer in northern areas such as Iceland, they fly all the way to the Antarctic for the winter. Because of this long distance and their long life of about 15 years, they fly the equivalent of three round trips to the moon. See photo below of an Arctic Tern with a blue iceberg background. The Black-headed Gulls look similar to Arctic Terns. We photographed a pair of them going through a mating dance on a very cold windy day. See photograph below of the two birds.



Arctic Tern with blue iceberg in background



Pair of Black-headed Gulls mating ritual





Common Eiders

We saw Common Eiders throughout our trip. These two adults with babies were swimming in a bay near our hotel.

There were many birds with young babies in nests in June. We saw a European Shag with two babies that Jim was able to photograph on a high cliff as we observed birds from a boat.



Black Guillemot



European Shag with nestlings



Whooper Swan

Nesting on the ground were Whooper Swans in many areas. This photo was taken of an adult and two babies that had nested very close to a secondary road. The Great Skuas were very vocal and defensive of their nests on the ground. See photo of Great Skua eggs in a ground nest.



Great Skua eggs

An unusual "bird feature" we encountered was in the fishing village of Djupivogur where a sculptor created 34 bird eggs out of granite. The shape and color of the eggs match that of local birds. The sculptor searched the world over to find granite of the correct color matching that of the actual eggs. See photo of Jan standing near one of the granite eggs.



Jan with a granite egg

Besides birds, there were terrific sights throughout our tour. Iceland is known for its glaciers and waterfalls. About 11% of it is covered by 269 named glaciers and the largest glacier in Europe (the Vatnajökull). Waterfalls "are everywhere" with over 10,000 of them. We saw Gullfoss, the second largest waterfall in the country. Iceland has been very successful in harnessing both thermal energy and hydropower (waterfalls) to create very inexpensive electricity; perhaps the reason we saw so many Tesla cars.

We visited an area called Pingvellir where the North American and European tectonic plates meet. They are moving apart at about 2 centimeters per year. This is also a very important historical area of Iceland because the first Viking settlers (starting in 870 A.D.) created the first rudimentary Parliament here nearly 1,100 years ago.

Off the coast of Iceland are the Westman Islands, which are interesting for several reasons. In 1627 pirates from North Africa attacked the islands and carried most of its residents off as slaves. More recently in 1973, the Eldfell Volcano suddenly began erupting in the middle of the night and buried the small town of Vestmannaeyljar with lava. All 1,500 residents were evacuated to the mainland but 40% of the town was buried in lava, so now it is called the "Pompeii of the North".

Iceland has dealt quickly and well with the Covid-19 virus. As a result, they have had very few cases and began allowing foreign visitors starting in Spring 2021. We were required to show our vaccination cards and take Covid tests at the airport but when the tests came back negative, we were free to enjoy this beautiful and unusual country during the month of June.



# Update from Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee (RCC)

By Paula Wehr, Central Florida  
Chapters Representative &  
Audubon Florida BoD

## Ongoing Central Florida Issues

Sand mine operators in Lake County withdrew their application to change the open space requirements in the Green Swamp Area of Critical Concern to allow for additional sand mining. County staff say they will have to start all over again if they want to make another try.

For background on the issue, see: <https://www.floridaphoenix.com/2021/03/11/green-swamps-sand-miners-look-for-special-treatment-after-their-slip-up/>

Eustis City Commission wanted to change their Comprehensive Plan to allow development to creep into the Wekiva protected area. Lake County opposes this change. Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society is monitoring the situation. <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/>

## 2022 Regional Conservation Priority Goals

Central Florida chapters continue our work to promote Lake Apopka restoration, visitor access and a new Audubon Nature Center. The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, North Shore, is the top eBirding hotspot in Florida and we still think it remains the conservation priority for our area.

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-lake-apopka-wildlife-drive-ecotourism-20210421-lvc6wo2nzfklf6ldunho2ak6q-story.html>

Our second regional conservation priority is to monitor and act on local and state government land use decisions impacting wildlife habitat. The legislature approved \$400 million for [Florida Forever](#). Now is the time to remind decision makers that we should acquire available properties which already have a high rank on the [2021 FF Priority List](#). Chapters can mention specific properties in letters to the editor or op-ed columns to bring community attention to the need to act now.

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## Keep Up With SAS

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to



Cuplet Fern Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) won the Award of Merit from FNPS for their work at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in the Geneva Wilderness Area in Seminole County. In 2006, county staff, community and school volunteers helped design and install a native plant garden. Plants came from Green Images Nursery, off Taylor Creek Road, in eastern Orange County. In 2009, a small water feature was installed. The water feature later evolved into a self-contained, natural filtered system showcasing local wetland plants and providing water for migrating wildlife. In 2010, local native plant volunteers took on the responsibility of maintaining the garden. In 2001, the Cuplet Fern chapter officially took on yearly maintenance.

# WELCOME

## NEW MEMBERS or NEW to OUR Chapter

Nabil Armaly	DeBary
Lisa Barfield	Deltona
Beth Noble Bogdon	Lake Mary
Daah Croft	Sanford
Dale Fox	DeBary
Joan Frons	DeBary
Lynn Gainey	Deltona
Cynthia Haller	Sanford
Andrew Jagodzinski	DeBary
Carol Lawrence	DeBary
Tamara Leiting	DeBary
M. McKie	Lake Mary
Anne Marie Merrill	Sanford
Laura Mitchell	Lake Mary
Vincent Mize	Lake Mary
Martine Levy Nelson	Lake Mary
J. Ramon Ruiz-Rodriguez	Deltona
Sandra Raymond	DeBary
Michael Saatzer-Bishop	Lake Mary

## AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

*Join on our website [SeminoleAudubon.org](http://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.

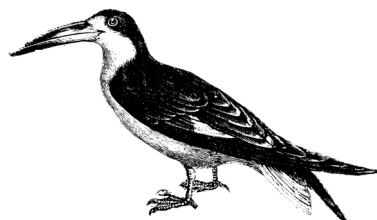
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2021-2022 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/21)

[SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com](mailto:SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com)

Term	Name	Office/Committee	Email
2020/2022	Phyllis Hall	President, Web Site, Programs	<a href="mailto:phylliscath814@gmail.com">phylliscath814@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Leslie Martin	Vice President, CBC, GBBC	<a href="mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com">woodstork.martin@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Jan Peters	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jan@janetkpeters.com">jan@janetkpeters.com</a>
2020/2022	Peggy Stickney	Secretary, Press/Publicity, Field Trip Release keeper	<a href="mailto:stickneymargaret@gmail.com">stickneymargaret@gmail.com</a>
2021/2023	Sarah Donlan	Field Trips	<a href="mailto:sarahdonlan42@gmail.com">sarahdonlan42@gmail.com</a>
2020/2022	Jim Denslow	CLP Liaison	<a href="mailto:bdenslow@cfl.rr.com">bdenslow@cfl.rr.com</a>
2021/2023	Lewis Gray	Jane Isle Survey	<a href="mailto:lewisngray@bellsouth.net">lewisngray@bellsouth.net</a>
2021/2023	Nat Harrison	CLI Student, Twitter	<a href="mailto:natsscem@gmail.com">natsscem@gmail.com</a>

Committee Chairs	Committee	Email
Marty Shepherd	Membership	<a href="mailto:gindad@cfl.rr.com">gindad@cfl.rr.com</a>
Margaret Loring	New Member Welcome Letter	<a href="mailto:MLoring@CFL.rr.com">MLoring@CFL.rr.com</a>
Marguerite Terwilleger	Past President, Big Sit data, Scholarships, Hospitality, Refreshments	<a href="mailto:mterwilleger51@gmail.com">mterwilleger51@gmail.com</a>
Cecilia Carey	Meetings PowerPoint, Monthly Reminders on Meet Up, Facebook	<a href="mailto:cacarey@cfl.rr.com">cacarey@cfl.rr.com</a>
Leslie Martin	SAS Premiums	<a href="mailto:woodstork.martin@gmail.com">woodstork.martin@gmail.com</a>
Open	History Archives	
Jim Peters	Purple Martin Nests	<a href="mailto:jim@jameshpeters.com">jim@jameshpeters.com</a>
Sam Kendall	Energy	<a href="mailto:samuelk32@embarqmail.com">samuelk32@embarqmail.com</a>
Faith Jones	Newsletter Compiler	<a href="mailto:faithaudubon@gmail.com">faithaudubon@gmail.com</a>
Corrinne Wertz	Publications	<a href="mailto:cwertz127@aol.com">cwertz127@aol.com</a>

**Eagle Watch:** Michelle Vaughn, Sarah Donlan

**Jay Watch:** Chuck Honaker, Marty Shepherd

**Jane Isle Survey:** Lewis Gray (Chair), Marguerite Terwilleger

**Conservation:** Phyllis Hall (Chair), Sam Kendall, Jim Denslow, Faith Jones, Cecilia Carey, Mindy Hellman, Marguerite Terwilleger, Sarah Donlan, Chuck Honaker

SAS is represented on these community committees: Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee, Wekiva River Basin Commission, Central FL Audubon Regional Conservation Committee. In addition, Seminole Planning and Development agendas are reviewed each week.

**Outreach:** Phyllis Hall (Chair), Marty Shepherd, Leslie Martin, Cecilia Carey

Events: Seminole Garden Expo – February, Altamonte Springs/Lake Lotus Festival – around Earth Week, Casselberry EarthFest - Earth Week, Seminole College Earth Week

**Hospitality/Refreshments:** Marguerite Terwilleger (Chair)

**MailChimp, Facebook & Meet Up:** Cecilia Carey (Backup: Phyllis Hall)

**PO Box Mail Pickup:** Michelle Vaughn (Backup: Marguerite Terwilleger)

**Lake Monroe Purple Martin Nests:** Jim Peters. Helpers: Jim & Cecilia Carey, Phyllis Hall, Richard Hagen

**Lake Jesup Park Clean Up:** Leslie Martin, Marguerite Terwilleger

**Scholarships:** Marguerite Terwilleger (Chair), Corrinne Wertz, Jim Denslow, Joy Rector, Michelle Vaughn

**School/Eco-Camp Connections:**

Eco Camp at Ed Yarborough Nature Center: Marguerite Terwilleger for scholarships. Using Audubon Adventures & SAS speakers for summer camps

Bentley Elementary - Sanford: Joy Rector. Starting Audubon Junior Club using Audubon Adventures.

Central FL Zoo Camp: Michelle Vaughn

Goldsboro Elementary - Sanford: Joy Rector

TW Lawton Elementary - Oviedo: Phyllis Hall

Walden Community School – Winter Park: Phyllis Hall

Seminole College - Phyllis Hall