

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 2021

Community Science and Birding

by Hope Botterbusch

Community science is defined by the U.S. Government as a form of open collaboration in which individuals or organizations participate voluntarily in the scientific process in various ways. In other words, these projects rely on volunteers to report data back to organizations that collect data on all types of projects.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) says, "We couldn't fulfill our mission without a dedicated crew of volunteers. Some of our researchers rely on citizen science volunteers who actively help out with research projects in the field or in the lab. Community Scientists work with researchers to investigate a wide range of topics including environmental archaeology, forest biodiversity, invasive species distributions, and water quality issues. They become partners in discovery - finding answers to new questions and getting an inside look at science in the real world. In return, the scientists are able to gather information on a much larger scale than would be possible on their own." Volunteers walk portions of SERC's bluebird trail once a week and collect data from 48 nest boxes. Several different species of cavity-nesting birds call their boxes "home", including Eastern Bluebirds, Carolina Chickadees and Tree Swallows. By looking at the nests and eggs inside the boxes, volunteers determine who is living there, and for how long. This data is then analyzed to find population patterns.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a leader in community science projects. According to Cornell, "Our citizen-science projects engage hundreds of thousands of people in recording bird observations – whether in backyards, city streets, or remote forests. Scientists analyze data submitted through our projects to understand how birds are affected by environmental changes".



There are several notable community science projects hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in which you can participate. A few of them are:

eBird explore birds and hotspots near you and wherever you go, all based on the latest sightings from around the world. Join the world's largest birding community. Every sighting matters. Contribute yours. What bird lists do you care about? eBird tallies them for you and archives your photos and sounds—all for free. Your sightings contribute to hundreds of conservation decisions and peer-reviewed papers, thousands of student projects, and help inform bird research worldwide. High-resolution data, visualizations, and tools describing where bird populations occur and how they change through time—powered by eBird data and updated annually, provide you with the best available science. eBird is a powerful resource for a wide range of scientific questions. Learn how to access, analyze, and cite eBird data and tools. eBird plays an increasingly important role in science and conservation. Applications of eBird data range from research and monitoring to species management, habitat protection, and informing law and policy. <https://ebird.org/home>



Project Feeder Watch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. **You don't even need a feeder!** All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water or food that attracts birds. **The schedule is completely flexible.** Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts

online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and contribute to a continental data-set of bird distribution and abundance. With FeederWatch, your observations become part of something bigger than your backyard. Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members). Canadians can participate by donating any amount to Birds Canada. These contributions cover materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Without the support of our participants, this project wouldn't be possible. <https://feederwatch.org/about/project-overview/>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Celebrate Urban Birds

Celebrate Urban Birds strives to co-create inclusive, equity-based citizen science projects that serve communities that have been historically excluded from birding and citizen

science. We seek to improve quality of life and promote better science by including missing voices, perspectives, and experiences. Founded in 2007, Celebrate Urban Birds is a year-round project. Another of our goals is to collect high-quality data from participants that will provide us with valuable knowledge of how different environments will influence the location of birds in urban areas. In the last 10 years, CUBs has partnered with over 12,000 community-based organizations, distributed more than 500,000 educational kits, and awarded dozens of mini-grants. Over 90% of our partner organizations work with underserved audiences. Our participants range in age from preschoolers and kindergartners to seniors, and more than 75% have little or no experience with birds. Despite our name, we are not restricted to dense city environments. Our sixteen target focal species can be found in a wide range of environments throughout North America. We send educational materials to, and collect data from, Canada and Mexico, too. Additionally, we love to hear about and support projects that involve the arts, neighborhood greening or other community habitat-creation efforts! <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/about/what-is-celebrate-urban-birds/>



Great Backyard Bird Count was launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen-science project (also referred to as community science) to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in

Canada. In 2013, we became a global project when we began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project. Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to the Cornell Lab. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. In 2020 they designed a new website to help make the 4-day count easy, clear, and inspiring. In an effort to spread the love of birdwatching even further, they use pictures of birds and people from around the world participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. No matter what corner of the world you live in or visit, they want to share in your joy of birdwatching. <https://www.birdcount.org/>



Nestwatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our database is intended to be used to study the current

condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals. Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Simply follow the directions on their website to become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest using their helpful tips, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then report this information on their website. You can also download the NestWatch Mobile App for iOS and Android and record what you see at the nest in real time. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world. <https://nestwatch.org/>

Citizen science projects and the people who manage them are important to changing the scientific landscape for both the scientific community and the greater public. Citizen science can be classified into one of three types: (1) contributive, where citizens gather data; (2) collaborative, where citizens may also analyze or interpret this data; or (3) co-created, where citizens participate in all levels of a project, from designing the research questions to analyzing data. Contributive and collaborative science allow experiments, explorations, or inquiries to run on a large-scale, ongoing basis, which provides scientists with large and diverse data sets that might have been otherwise unavailable.

While it is true that many research projects take place over long periods even without community science participation, the large-scale volunteer efforts of community scientists allow rapid scaling for relatively little money and effort. Additionally, it provides opportunity for two-way engagement between the public and scientists, which can lead to increased understanding by participants, and has the capacity to influence policy and decision-making by local and regional organizations and governments to the federal government.

Community Science projects are a rewarding experience for people of all ages. There's a huge world of birds, behavior, and science out there. Whatever captures your fancy, there's a citizen science project that can make your life more meaningful.

Binocular Donations Needed



Do you have an old pair of binoculars you aren't using? Maybe you purchased an upgraded model and aren't using your old ones. If so, please consider donating your old pair to SAS. We will use them as loaners on our field trips. Most new birders don't have binoculars and it's very difficult to see those little birds without a pair of binoculars.

Keep Up With SAS

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



In memory of SAS Member Richard Poole

Richard Poole was born in 1931 in Memphis, Tennessee. After spending his youth in Memphis, Richard married his college sweetheart, Margaret Johnson. Richard earned his PhD in Botany while living in Gainesville, Florida. After a brief stop in Hawaii, the family settled in Apopka, Florida where Richard spent his entire career performing research in horticulture for the University of Florida. During his career, he traveled extensively helping the international nursery industry improve their growing techniques.

After retirement, he continued his travels but enjoyed shifting his focus to his life-long love of birding and nature. In these travels, he had a second chance at love when he met and married a fellow world-traveling nature lover, Christine Brown. Richard was a past president of Orange Audubon. While in that role he was instrumental in getting the Orlando Gun Club kicked out of Magnolia Park. He created bird boxes which he sold at festivals. In later years he donated the proceeds to SAS.



He and Christine attended SAS meetings and field trips. Richard was the founder of the Wekiva Basin Banding Station which originally met at Wekiva State Park. That banding station continues today in Lake Lotus Park.

Water Sampling for UF's Emerging Pollutants Study



Responding to a request from the University of Florida through President Phyllis Hall, Jim Peters volunteered to collect surface water samples at eleven sites in the Sanford area. The University of Florida was conducting a sampling program from 2,000 sites across the state but samples for this area had not been obtained. Jim and friend Ed Dillenbeck drove to ten sample sites in late August and provided the needed samples.

program which is focused on emerging pollutants; in particular pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Data from the 2,000 samples will eventually be available on the professor's website and credit given to the Seminole Audubon Society for its participation.



Dr. John Bowen of the University of Florida heads up the



The sites ranged from French Landing near Blue Spring State Park to Hatbill Park near Mims with others in Deltona and nearby areas. Dr. Bowen provided specific instruction for sample collection that included two 250 ml bottles and one small glass tube at each site. Jim and Ed also provided GPS locations and photographs.



Chuck Honaker

Blue Spring State Park, in Orange City (Volusia County), continues to be a JayWatch site for annual Florida Scrub-Jay surveys due to its local population of Florida Scrub-Jays. Several Seminole Audubon members have been a part of the survey teams. Lacking natural wildfires, there's been a lot of controlled burns and roller-chopping to keep the scrub habit appropriate to the needs of scrub jays at Blue Spring and at nearby Rock Springs State Preserve. Additionally, a hiking trail that runs in a southerly direction from the entry ranger station bisects the scrub in the south zone of the park. People and scrub jays use this new open space. Thanks to the park biologist and management staff, the birds are a valued resource.

There are new markers and signage to inform about the scrub habitat, jays and other wildlife. Blue Spring State Park is known worldwide for its manatee population, but moreover boasts great scrub areas and our endemic scrub jays. I appreciate the opportunities I have had to be a volunteer at the park for more than six years.



Florida Scrub-Jays

photo by Faith Jones

Welcome to Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) Students

CLI is a year-long co-mentoring program that provides networking and learning opportunities to students of Florida's colleges and universities that are interested in a career in environmental conservation. From October 2021 to May 2022, students in the CLI Cohort are immersed in Audubon Florida, learning more about our grassroots conservation efforts while developing valuable professional skills. CLI students have access to one-on-one mentorships, leadership skill-building, professional development, field trips, project-planning opportunities, and more.



Tracey Comazzi

Phyllis Hall will be mentoring two CLI students this year. Tracey Comazzi is enrolled at Rollins College in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Urbanism. She transferred there from Seminole State College. She recently completed an internship with the Cuplet Fern Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society where she worked on several projects relating to native plants. Her interests include: botany/plant science, climate change, conservation,

ecology, environmental education/outreach, environmental policy/advocacy, forestry, limnology/hydrology, natural resource management, sustainability, wildlife biology, zoology, restoration of Florida's natural habitats including marine habitats; invasive plant removal.

Robin Pitilon is enrolled at Valencia College in Plant Science and Agricultural Technology with a specialization in Horticulture. He recently attended the 2021 UF/IFAS Urban Landscape Summit. His interests include botany/plant science, climate change, conservation, environmental education/outreach, natural resource management and sustainability.



Robin Pitilon

Third Solar Co-op Planned for Seminole County Homeowners

Sam Kendall

In August, rain and not snow fell for the first time on the ice-capped summit of Greenland, releasing 7 billion tons of water. This will cause rising sea levels, of course, but the fresh water also disrupts the ocean conveyor belt which is driven by the contrasting ocean temperatures around Greenland. Destabilized global currents can disrupt marine ecosystems and affect ambient temperatures south to the tropics.* Researchers also believe the removal of Greenland's ice load releases stress on the earth below which may trigger quakes and tsunamis. This Greenland climate event is one more we're counting this year that demands we stop releasing heat-trapping greenhouse gases.



Utilities in Florida have made bold moves building greenhouse-gas-free solar farms. Solar panels are now their lowest-cost power production source. After years of supporting polluting coal and gas plants, now they can claim an interest in reducing carbon dioxide emissions while maintaining their profit margins. Construction of panels does have some carbon footprint, but once in place, the solar electricity releases no gas at all.

Still, the farms are not universally accepted. Land use conflicts occur frequently and invasive plants can be problematic. I also have learned that dead birds are found at solar farms. Audubon and other stakeholders are trying to determine why.** Vacant land may have more value now for reforestation and habitat restoration. Utilities have other options for locating solar panels but so far they have avoided them.

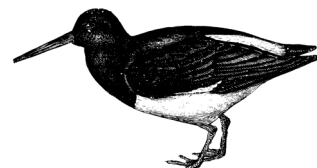
That brings us to rooftops. Rooftops are clearly the best place for solar panels. These spaces are already in use and can have the secondary purpose of electricity production. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that Florida has enough rooftop space using all building types to produce up to 47% of its electricity needs. Utility solar farms must not be our only choice. The Arizona Public Utility has a pilot program which gives a \$30 credit to homeowners who allow the utility to install, own and maintain a solar system on their roof. Florida utilities instead compete with rooftop solar.



Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is helping homeowners get solar on their rooftops. Using the co-op approach they are getting installations done at discounted prices. Partnering with the Seminole League of Women Voters they have given notice that a new co-op is being planned for Seminole County in early 2022. Since 2015 SUN has started 68 co-ops around the state and helped 2070 homeowners get installations. Co-op membership gives you the confidence that your installer has been completely vetted and your price will be below market. Membership is free with no obligation to buy anything. Visit <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida/> to learn more.

* https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/rain-fell-for-first-time-greenland-s-summit-here-s-why-it-matters?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

** <http://www.aviansolar.org/>



Audubon Fellow Inventories County Gov't Greenhouse Gas

Sam Kendall

George Hutchinson was surfing his favorite internet sites when he came across the Audubon-funded Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Internship Program. He applied and was accepted to partner with Frank Consoli, Administrator in the Seminole County Office of Economic Development. I tracked George down with the help of Audubon Florida Climate Resilience staff and was able to arrange a Zoom conversation.

George is in his last semester of mechanical engineering at UCF. Watching the catastrophic climate events around the earth are a big concern for him and his friends. The idea of inventorying heat-trapping GHG motivated him to get involved. When I asked him about his career intentions he said he was looking at opportunities in hydroponics. The overheating conditions on the planet are going to require new approaches for food production, specifically in water conservation. George and Frank researched emissions for 2019 because 2020 was muddled up by the Covid pandemic. They gathered data from January to April in 2021. He sent me the final report, now part of county records. To receive an electronic copy of their 18-page report send a request to seminoleaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

The team used protocols established by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Local Governments for Sustainability, using both direct and indirect measurements. The county doesn't keep total miles traveled by vehicles, only the dollar amounts spent on fuel. George had to take these figures and work them back to find how many gallons of fuels were purchased and burned. Off-road diesel equipment such as excavators turned out to be the highest CO₂ emitters in the total fleet category. Tailpipe emissions by commuting employees were also totaled and added in later.

Other categories were electricity used in buildings and at the wastewater treatment facility. George even had to track down the kwh used by county-operated streetlights and traffic signals. The big surprise was the amount of methane emitted at the county-operated Osceola landfill. After converting the methane into carbon dioxide equivalent they found that 92% of emissions from all county operations come from that landfill. They understood, however, that the landfill accepts organic material from every community in the county, not just county government. Using specially-designed software they finally determined that 343,005 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e}) were released by county operations in 2019.

With this database the new county Sustainability Consultant (Hanson Professional Services) can make recommendations for reducing emissions. Electrifying the fleet and increasing efficiency in buildings, motors and pumps will probably be a priority. Reducing landfill gas presents a major challenge. Some municipalities elsewhere have incorporated residential composting programs which reduces biogas from landfills. ICLEI recommends inventories every five years.



Quotable Quote

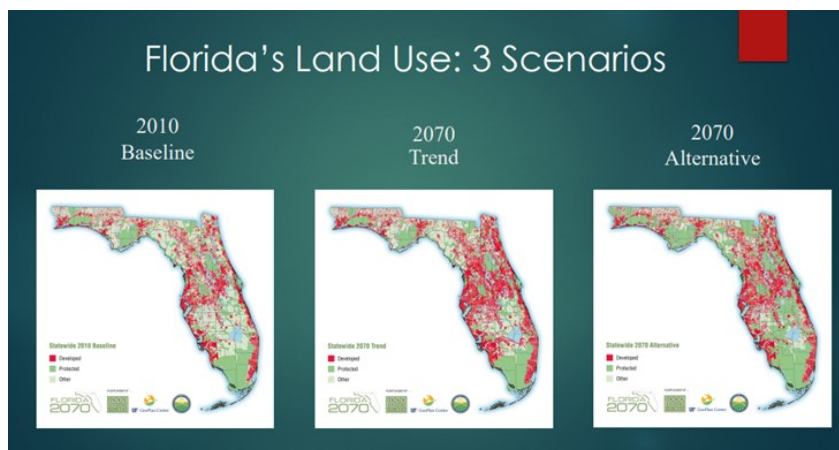
Kenn Kaufman, field guide author, artist, naturalist and conservationist: Any time I address a question about how to get “better” at birding, I start by repeating something I once wrote. “Birdwatching is something that we do for enjoyment, so if you enjoy it, you are already a good birder. If you enjoy it a *lot*, you are a *great* birder.”



Seminole 2070

Phyllis Hall

What makes Seminole County a special place to live, work and play? On September 22, 1000 Friends of Florida and the St. Johns Riverkeeper partnered for a Seminole 2070 virtual event discussing the future growth and development trends in Seminole County, factors affecting water quality in the St. Johns River Middle Basin, and policy recommendations to protect and promote the region's vibrant communities. Lee Constantine, Chair of Seminole County Commissioners, appeared via video, reiterating his support of conservation and protecting the rural boundary. Several commissioners attended the virtual event as well as several SAS members.



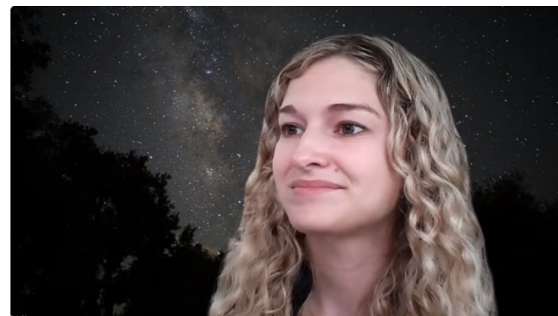
Paul Owens, President of 1000 Friends of Florida, shared findings from the Florida 2070 and Water 2070 reports extrapolated for Seminole County by the St. Johns River Keeper, Lisa Rinaman, and Middle Basin Coordinator, Gabbie Milch. 1000 Friends of Florida's Policy and Planning Director, Jane West, concluded by drawing on registrants' survey results on quality-of-life indicators, and provided policy recommendations and next steps for good growth management in Seminole County. Seminole County is already doing a lot of things well. Using moderate population growth projections calculated in Florida 2070, Seminole County will need to be able to accommodate nearly a quarter of a million additional residents by 2070. The best way to manage that is with compact (vs sprawling) development which keeps the rural boundary and wildlife corridor intact.

Here's a link to the recording and the presentation slides. <https://1000fof.org/county/seminole-county/>

Program Notes

Dark Sky in Florida by Madelline Mathis

Madelline Mathis was our guest speaker at the September 12th meeting held via Zoom. Light pollution is a problem that has been increasing by 2% every year since the 1950s. 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. Almost 80% of birds migrate at night. They can get disoriented by light, getting off track from their migration path as well as colliding with buildings. There are 8 species of bats in Florida. Most avoid light, which can affect eating and mating. 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. Madelline is consulting with the City of Groveland, helping them through the process of becoming the first Florida International Dark-Sky Certified Community. Other places working on certification are: Long Key State Park, St. George Island State Park, Fakahatchee Preserve State Park, Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park. The best time to see the Milky Way in Kissimmee Prairie State Park is mid-summer. There is some light pollution, but you can still see it. Things you can do to reduce light pollution: turn off exterior decorative lighting, use amber lights outside, install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible. When converting to new lighting, assess quality and quantity of the light needed. You can find certified good light fixtures at Lowe's and Home Depot.



Here's a link to the recording of this program.

Access Passcode: p2z\$Sac6

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/i0ENXz69WpY0BhpgPb6HVXuISzUBNS6nClwVMAHt346xjNXR-RefPdgGb3XSdGvC.TRoe7_SeCi2Jc74a



Big Sit!

Leslie Martin

October is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors after the hot Florida summer, and it was a perfect day for The Big Sit.

Twelve early birders were able to identify 47 species, either by call or by sight, from a 17-foot diameter circle at Lake Jesup Park in Sanford.

The area around the boat ramp is undergoing renovations so we were unsure if this would help or hinder our count. The species near the boat ramp were consistent with other count years. King Rails were heard several times. Multiple Limpkins were active and vocal. The brush pile is still a favorite perching spot and provided views of five Common Ground Doves, Carolina Wren,



Leah Weisman and Tyra Dawson with binoculars ready to see the birds

Northern Cardinals, Common Yellowthroat, and a female Painted Bunting. Palm Warblers have returned and were devouring a buffet of insects on the freshly-scraped mud. There is better visibility of Lake Jesup but no species were spotted on the water.



The Big Sit count area with birders, chairs, tent and scope set up next to a line of palm trees with Lake Jesup in the background.

Trip Notes

Seminole State Forest

On September 18th our tour guide, Ralph Risch, Biologist at Seminole State Forest (SSF), had a great surprise for the group: banding a young Florida Scrub-Jay. He already conditioned the family to get them used to the trap. He lures them in with treats. We learned that he has to have a lot of patience waiting for the bird to enter the trap. After a lot of looking and false starts, one finally got in far enough to trip the door. Then Ralph demonstrated how he bands the bird and collects data. Ralph has been banding at SSF for over 15 years. He is like a walking encyclopedia of facts and anecdotes about the birds. Everyone learned a great deal. After the banding, the group came back to the trailhead and walked around the lake.

Leslie Martin kept an eBird list. She logged 29 species including Ruby-throated

Hummingbird, Great Egret, White Ibis, Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Downy, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Towhee, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warblers, and more. This trip was popular, but we had to limit participants. We will definitely plan this trip again for next season.



Purple Gallinule L.Gray



Chuck Honaker, John Carey, Leslie Martin and Lewis Gray smiling in a group photo.



Upcoming Programs

Location: The decision was made by the Board of Directors that it is time once again to meet in person. Our meetings will be held at the University of FL IFAS Extension, 250 W. County Home Road , Sanford 32773

Nametags will no longer be stored by SAS. Pick up your nametag at the meeting and then keep it to wear at future monthly meetings and outings.

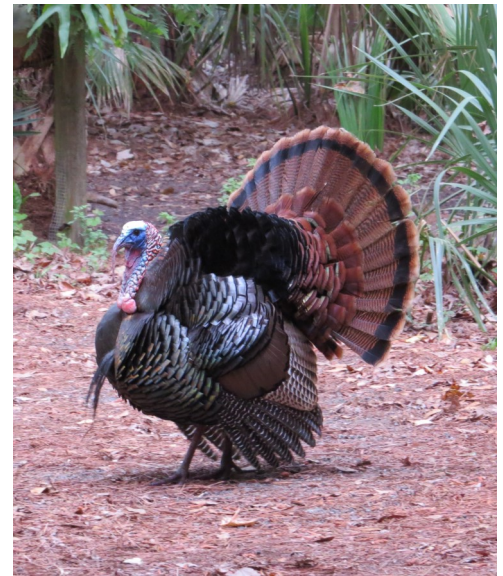
Refreshments. Bring your own drink. If you would like to bring a treat to share, let Marguerite Terwilleger know mterwilleger51@gmail.com

November 14

Wild Turkey by Jay Exum, Ph.D.

Wild Turkeys are seen in a variety of habitats. How many times have you seen wild turkeys and wondered what they were eating, where they were going, and where they nest? This presentation will answer those questions, on this distinctive North American bird. Dr. Exum will provide details on their unique characteristics and habits, and unusual aspects of the Wild Turkey.

Jay Exum received his Ph.D. from Auburn University in 1985. His dissertation focused on the ecology of the eastern wild turkey. Dr. Exum has provided ecological expertise on projects in Central Florida related to threatened and endangered species, wetlands ecology and large-scale conservation planning. In his private practice, he has represented private businesses, counties, public agencies and non-governmental organizations on resource management, land acquisition programs, and comprehensive plans that assure protection of landscape linkages, and large tracts of natural lands. Jay has served as the chair of the advisory board for the Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Department of the University of Tennessee, the president of the *Friends of the Wekiva River*, president of the Florida Chapter of **The Wildlife Society**, and chair of the Board of Directors of the *Florida Wildlife Federation*.



Osceola Wild Turkey photo Faith Jones

December 12

Nature Photography by Reg Garner

Reg will show his sensational photos of various natural locations around the Sanford area. During his presentation he'll provide tips on how to photograph nature and birds.



Shoreline Palms

photo by Reg Garner

Reg Garner is a professional photographer with a passion for capturing the beauty of nature with his camera. He spends his free time taking pictures on Lake Monroe, along beaches, natural springs and other areas. Reg has received numerous awards including: 2015 Photographer of the Year (Professional Photographer's Society), 2014 Artist of the Year (Seminole County Arts Foundation), 2009 Nature's Best Photography Contest (Work displayed at Smithsonian National Museum, Washington DC). His studio is at 116 Park Avenue, Sanford.

Upcoming Field Trips

November 20, Saturday

Mead Botanical Garden and Kraft Azalea Garden, Winter Park



Boardwalk at Mead Garden

Mead Botanical Garden is on 47 acres that include a boardwalk and trails through pine trees and a butterfly garden. We expect to see wading birds and migrating birds.

Meet at Mead Garden at 8:30 am, 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park 32789. Parking with restroom available. Moderate walking over uneven ground. All levels and ages of birders are welcome.

For those interested in doing more, we will travel to Kraft Azalea Garden nearby for more viewing of wading birds. This is

also a rookery location in the springs. This 5.22-acre public garden is located on the shore of Lake Maitland. The beautiful park is shaded by enormous cypress trees that add to the old Florida charm. Kraft Azalea Garden is located at 1365 Alabama Drive, Winter Park 32789. Parking lot. Wheelchair accessible. No restroom.



Kraft Azalea Garden

Join the Christmas Bird Count



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

December 18, Saturday

Christmas Bird Count

This is the longest-running, citizen-science project. There are 15-mile diameter count circles all over the world. SAS participates in the Wekiva Circle. We 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.



Photos taken by Lewis Gray at the Big Sit!



Palm Warbler



Greater Yellowlegs



Boat-tailed Grackle (female)



Great Egret

Features Species

Faith Jones

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) is a member of the flycatcher family. Birds in the same family have similar characteristics. Flycatchers are small to medium sized with dull drab coloring. Their bills are short, broad and flat. Many species have crests, but they are hardly visible. Flycatchers are the largest family of birds with over 400 species in 10 genera. Flycatchers can be a major ID challenge. Plumage and structure in each genus can be so similar that vocalization has to be used to differentiate them. Unlike most other flycatchers, the Eastern Phoebe is relatively easy to identify.



Eastern Phoebe photo by Jim Jones

Eastern Phoebes are 7" from top of head to tip of tail. They are the same size as an Eastern Bluebird, and smaller than a Northern Cardinal. Male and female phoebes look alike. They are monogamous. Phoebes rarely occur in groups. Most sightings are of single birds; even mated pairs spend little time together.

With relatively large heads and black bills, Eastern Phoebes are a dark, drab gray-brown on the back, with faint wing bars and a light or dirty white breast and belly. There is often a yellow wash on their sides.

Phoebes feed primarily on insects which they catch on the fly. They will eat seeds and small fruits in winter. Like all flycatchers, Eastern Phoebes commonly perch upright on small twigs or branches towards the outer part of a tree or shrub, also on telephone wires and fences. They take off quickly, grab an insect and

return to the same or a close perch. Flycatchers are quick and agile flyers. Phoebe will hover when eating seeds or berries.

Two characteristics that will help differentiate an Eastern Phoebe:

- Tail wiggles –when perched they constantly pump their tail.
- Vocalization - they say their name, **FEE-bee!**

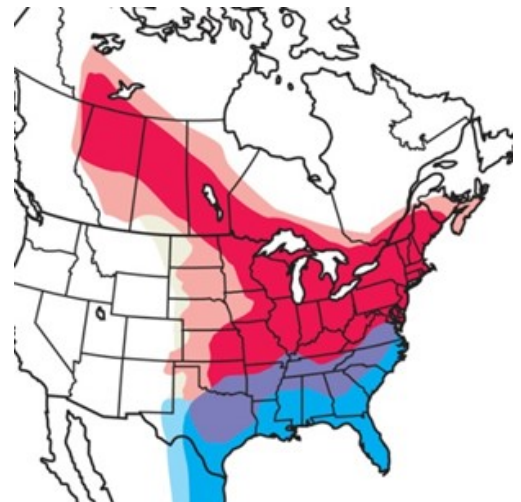
Eastern Phoebes spend the winter with us. They leave quite early in spring heading for their northern breeding grounds. They arrive late in fall, especially compared to other flycatchers.

In 1804, the Eastern Phoebe became the first banded bird in North America. John James Audubon attached silvered thread to an Eastern Phoebe's leg to track its return in successive years.

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Eastern Phoebe populations are stable.



Eastern Phoebe photo by Ken Schmidt



Eastern Phoebe Range Map
National Audubon Society

Thank You! We appreciate everyone who completed the St. Johns River Water Management District survey. The comment period ended October 22. As this is likely our last chance to free the Ocklawaha River, uncover 20 springs, restore 15,000 acres of Cypress forest, reconnect the wildlife corridor, and more, we hope they will take action on our pleas for their leadership to restore the Great Florida Riverway by breaching the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam..



Ready to Bird Florida's Top eBird Hotspot?
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WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS or NEW to OUR Chapter

Barbara Bode	Geneva
Tyra Dawson	Longwood
Dawna Friestad	Heathrow
Michelle Henson	Lake Mary
Carolyn S Ingle	Sanford
Kevin & Jana Kranz	Oviedo
Kate Lee	Lake Mary
Nathan F. McCarthy	DeBary
Meryl M. Rockefeller	Deltona
Michael T. Skubak	Heathrow
Judi Slattery	Lake Mary
Amy Wettergreen	Lake Mary

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.

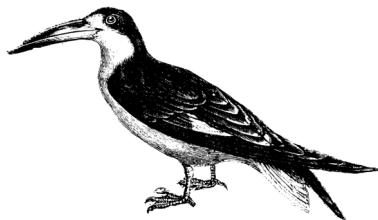
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2021-2022 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/21)

SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com

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

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

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, Faith Jones, Cecilia & John Carey, Mindy Hellman, Marguerite Terwilleger, Sarah Donlan
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, Joy Rector, Michelle Vaughn

School/Eco-Camp Connections: Eco Camp-Ed Yarbrough Nature Center: Marguerite Terwilleger for scholarships. Using Audubon Adventures & SAS speakers for camps
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 State College - Phyllis Hall