

The JAY

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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 2022

New Least Tern Nesting Site?

Leslie Martin, SAS VP

One of my favorite projects with Seminole Audubon Society was monitoring the Least Tern colony that nested on the roof of the waterfront hotel on Lake Monroe in Sanford. Unfortunately, that building was torn down several years ago, and I was unable to find any nearby nesting sites.

Imagine my delight when I was parked near the Altamonte Mall in May and heard that familiar and unmistakable “bee-dee, bee-dee, bee-dee” above the old Sears store! I rejoined



the Florida Shorebird Database and entered the new location, my high count being 21 Least Terns in mid-July. I was unable to confirm any nests or fledged chicks, but was able to view adult birds carrying small forage fish to the area above the gravel rooftop, which is a good indicator of a breeding site.



On my last visit, August 8th, there were no terns present. Likely, they have departed to their tropical winter locations as far south as Brazil. I'll be watching for their return next spring!

Membership

Have you stopped receiving **Audubon Magazine**? If so, your membership may have expired.

You can renew or rejoin at: <https://seminoleaudubon.org/membership/>

Or contact Audubon member services if you have a question on your membership status: chapter_services@audubon.org

Good Season for Purple Martins

By Cecilia Carey

It was another good year for the Purple Martins (PUMA) at the SAS habitat on Lake Monroe! On July 26th, Jim and Jan Peters, along with Cecilia and John Carey, met to take down the gourds. These are some of our findings:

- Nine of the sixteen gourds contained nests this year.
- Gourds from the upper row of each pole had more nests than the lower rows.
- The birds did not show a preference for gourds that were pre-loaded with pine straw at the beginning of the season. Nests were built of oak leaves, sabal palm fronds, small sticks, and other mulch items.
- The weight of the nests ranged from 1.7 to 5.7 ounces, with the heavier nests also containing soil. A small, white plastic bottle ring and 3-inch piece of electrical wire were found in one nest.



Pictured is a PUMA pair that was spotted on a streetlight at the marina in early February. The male appeared to be evaluating a small cavity on the light as a potential nesting site. It was the only observation at the light during the season, so they most likely moved to the SAS habitat as more PUMAs arrived.



One of the lighter nesting gourds being weighed. Photo by C. Carey

Thank you to the many volunteers who visited the site during the season and reported their observations. It helped paint a more complete picture of the life of the PUMA at our site. There were several reports of the PUMAs working together to dive-bomb crows or Boat-tailed Grackles that perched on their poles. Sometimes, it was a repetitive process as, especially the grackles, would fly to a nearby sabal palm and then return to the poles. The many Rock Pigeons, gulls, and ducks in the area did not seem to bother the PUMAs. There

were no observations of other bird species trying to nest in the gourds.

We look forward to the return of the PUMAs next January or February.



PUMA team with gourds they had just taken down. By C. Carey

Join Our Seminole Audubon Society Trip to Costa Rica

Leslie Martin, VP

We're going to Costa Rica! Join President Phyllis Hall and yours truly VP Leslie Martin on a Birder's Paradise excursion January 4th-13th, 2023. We'll visit the world-renowned La Selva Biological Station, a private ecological reserve near Arenal Volcano, Carara National Park and the paramo habitats of Cerro de la Muerte.

Accompanied by an expert guide, we'll visit a variety of habitats and have opportunities to see hundreds of bird species!



This will be my 5th trip with Holbrook Travel, and I've had amazing experiences each and every time. Copy the link below or go to Holbrooktravel.com and enter "Seminole Audubon" in the search box. Contact me at woodstork.martin@gmail.com with any questions.

Conservation Florida BioBlitz at Rock Springs Run State Reserve

June 11

A BioBlitz is an immersive research event where participants find, identify, and record all of the plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms that live within a specified area. BioBlitz helps understand the biodiversity in an area which helps land managers protect species at risk, manage resources and land, and monitor climate change and its effects on biodiversity. The primary goal of BioBlitz events is to get participants engaged with wild Florida by observing and identifying Florida's plant and animal species. The more participants learn, the more they can better understand the important role land protection plays in safeguarding those incredible species they're seeing. Participants were encouraged to record their observations on iNaturalist to help give a snapshot of the biodiversity in the area. Birds were recorded using eBird.

The event was organized by Jessica Modriskey, Programs and Operations Manager of Conservation Florida. There were four scheduled hikes leaving the meeting point every hour. Participants could come for as many hikes as they wished. SAS volunteers led the first group for birding at 8:00 am. Thanks to these SAS volunteers for their help: Connie Dolan, Leslie Martin, Kate Dolamore, Lewis Gray, and Phyllis Hall. The group saw over 29 species of birds. The next hike began at 9:00 a.m. led by Cuplet Fern Native Plant Society volunteers. The third hike started at 10:00 a.m. with leaders Dr. Jack Stout, UCF biology professor, Paul Hardin, Florida nature enthusiast and Conservation Florida's Luis Tirado and Mark Rizzol. The final hike was at 11:00 led by Wekiva Wilderness Trust volunteers.



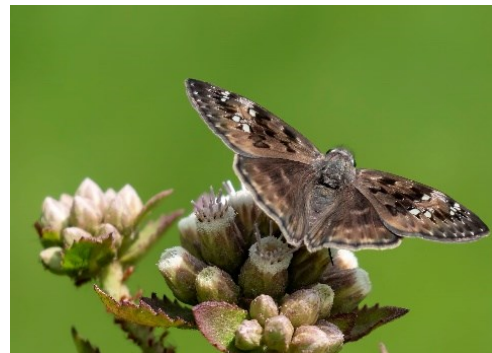
Rock Springs Run BioBlitz

Crystal Lake Preserve Butterfly Survey July 2

It was a hot and muggy morning, but volunteers from Cuplet Fern Native Plant Society and SAS endured it to complete the survey. This year we were joined by Anita Comacho, a butterfly expert from Tampa. She owns a butterfly nursery and conservatory there. She provided very helpful tips on how to identify butterflies and helped us with identification along the walk. The survey is part of a survey circle similar to Christmas Bird Count and is held on the first Saturday in July. The summary data is submitted to the North American Butterfly Association. At this year's count, we saw 9 species including Polydamas, Spicebush & Palamedes Swallowtails, Cloudless & Orange-barred sulphurs, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian and Horace's Duskywing, a skipper.



Thanks to SAS volunteers: Connie Dolan, Leslie Martin, Tracey Comazzi, Kate Dolamore, Lynn Folts, and Phyllis Hall. A few birds were sighted too. The highlight was a Red-tailed Hawk.



Horace's Dusky Wings
photo by Lynn Folts

Ed Yarborough Nature Center Eco Camp

On Thursday, July 7, Cecilia Carey, Phyllis Hall, and Marty Shepherd visited Seminole County Natural Lands Eco Camp at Geneva Wilderness Area to lead some of the activities for the day. The camp theme for the week was "Things with Wings."



Campers first braved the heat and went on a walk looking for birds and scavenger hunt items. This was followed by a presentation given by Cecilia Carey from which they learned about the structure, functions, and shapes of bird wings. Campers were amazed by the size of the Bald Eagle's wingspan in comparison to a camper's arm span. The visit finished off with a fun game of Bird Bingo.

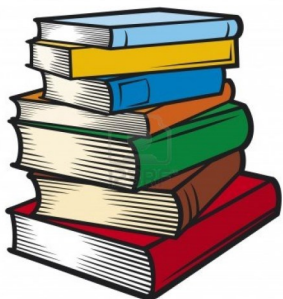
While at eco camp, we noticed the binoculars they have are actually toy ones. Since no one applied for a camp scholarship this season, the board voted to re-allocate scholarship money for the purchase of 10 better quality children's binoculars. We were able to take advantage of Amazon's Prime purchase day to get a significant discount.

The children were able to use them the last week of camp.



Cuplet Fern Native Plant Society Plant Sale at Sanford Garden Club October 15

Cuplet Fern is sponsoring a native plant sale at Sanford Garden Club, 200 Fairmont Drive, on October 15. They will also have pine straw for sale. Native plant gardening helps enhance biodiversity, a critical response to urban development. Florida Native Plant Society provides information on native plants and a link to find plants based on your location and needs: <https://www.fnps.org/plants>



Field Guide Library

Thanks to donations from several generous members, we now have a selection of birding field guides for many locations. We have guides to Texas, Montana, Alaska, Kauai, The Salton Sea, Peru and Cuba to name a few.

If you are planning a trip, send us an email with your destination and we'll check the Field Guide Library.

Upcoming Programs and Field Trips

Thanks to Cecilia Carey, Leslie Martin and Phyllis Hall who served on the programs and field trips committee, we will have interesting speakers and a good variety of field trips this season. We are sending the season brochure to everyone on our MailChimp distribution list. The programs and field trips are posted on our website: www.seminoleaudubon.org.

Field trips have become more popular and groups have become large which makes it difficult for the group to stay together to find and identify birds. We want everyone to have a good experience seeing and hearing birds, especially newer birders. So, this season we are limiting most groups to 15 with a reservation required.

Since interest in the end-of-the-season kayaking and picnic has decreased in recent years, this year we have added a regular program meeting in April and an April field trip.

Programs

Meetings are held on the second Sunday at 2 pm except for the October and April meetings. The April meeting will be on the third Sunday in 2023.

Location:

IFAS Extension Education Building
University of Florida/IFAS Extension Seminole County
250 W. County Home Rd. (off 17/92)
Sanford, FL 32773

September 11: Birds of Seminole Forest

Ralph Risch is the Florida Scrub-Jay Biologist for Seminole State Forest in Lake County. Thanks to Ralph's long-term management, the State Forest has a growing population of Florida Scrub-Jays, Eastern Towhees, Brown Thrashers, White-eyed Vireos, and other birds that inhabit the scrub that makes up much of the State Forest. The Forest's wetter habitats along Blackwater Creek host different migratory, wintering, and resident birds. Ralph will share his extensive natural history information about these birds and the State Forest.



Brown Thrasher by Ken Schmidt

October 9: Big Sit at Lake Jesup Park



This event replaces our regular monthly meeting. This is an annual, international event hosted by New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. They compile the count data. We sit inside a circle and count all the bird species we see or hear. Tent available for shade. 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.

<https://gis.audubon.org/birdability/>

November 13: Disney's Avian Conservation & Purple Martin Research

Dr. Jason Fischer, Conservation Program Manager for avian projects with Disney Conservation, has been fascinated by birds and our relationship to them ever since he first started taking pictures of birds as a child. His graduate research focused on avian urban ecology, and he now brings this passion to managing Disney's avian conservation efforts. His work involves supporting international avian conservation efforts with the Disney Conservation Fund. He also develops research and engagement programs focused on the bird species, including Purple Martins, that call Walt Disney Parks and Resorts home.

Field Trips

September 17: Rock Springs Run State Reserve

Rock Springs Run State Reserve is nearly 14,000 acres of diverse habitats, including sand pine scrub, pine flatwoods, bayheads, oak hammocks and swamps. At the BioBlitz there in June we saw 29 species of birds. At 8:00 am meet at parking area 2. Park along the drive, pulling off so traffic can pass. *The main entrance to the reserve is off of SR-46, 30601 County Road 433, Sorrento, FL 32776. This is a State Park, so there is a \$3/car entrance fee.* All levels and ages of birders are welcome. We will be walking on trails that might be difficult to navigate with uneven surfaces. Bathrooms are available at the horse stables, a short driving distance from the meeting point. **Limited to 15 people.** Reservations required. Contact Phyllis Hall at: phylliscath814@gmail.com



October 15: Lyonia Nature Preserve

Lyonia Preserve is a joint project of Volusia County, the Volusia County School Board and the State of Florida to provide environmental education to the public and restore and maintain habitat for scrub-dependent species, including the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay and Gopher tortoise. The preserve, named after the scrub plant rusty lyonia, consists of 360 acres of restored Florida scrub habitat. Our tour guide, Stephen Kintner, is a volunteer at the preserve and VP/Conservation Chair of West Volusia Audubon. Meet at 8:00 am at the Lyonia Environmental Center, 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. Moderate walking over uneven terrain. Restrooms available in the Environmental Center. Donations to the preserve are appreciated. **Limited to 15 people.** Reservations required. Contact Leslie Martin at woodstork.martin@gmail.com.



Personal Trips to Wekiva Basin Banding Station at Lake Lotus Park

The banding station is located in Altamonte Springs at Lake Lotus Park. This is an all-volunteer community 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 September 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. Moderate walking over uneven terrain. Restroom facilities at the public park. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. Contact Phyllis Hall phylliscath814@gmail.com to schedule. Info.: <https://wekivaband.blogspot.com/>

You are Invited to the 2022 Audubon Florida Assembly Oct. 13-15, 2022 Ft. Myers

This year's assembly will center on everything that
"Birds Tell Us,"
not only now, but into the future.

Details & registration information:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-audubon-assembly-birds-tell-us-registration-354028557947>



Pre-Order Your 2023 Audubon Calendar

The 2023 Audubon calendars are available for pre-order now! Featuring beautiful bird portraits and breathtaking landscapes, these calendars deliver a wide array of scenes from the natural world, all year long. Check out our stunning new Desert Wildflowers and Nature wall calendars, plus our first-ever Kids Birding activity calendar. You can use code **AUDUBON23** for 20% off Audubon products, <https://www.pageaday.com/brands/audubon>

Red-bellied Woodpecker



These images, taken by Joy Rector, are of a female Red-bellied Woodpecker at her nesting cavity. Both male and female work on the cavity excavation.



The above image of an adult female feeding an ant or other insect found on the tree to a juvenile Red-bellied Woodpecker was captured by Jim Hennigar.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS or NEW to OUR Chapter

Linda Barbieri	Deltona	Live Kotkin	Sanford
Randy Brown	Orlando	Larene Lantz	Sanford
Greta A. Cheatham	Deltona	Mark Lester	Sanford
Carrie DeLong-Price	Geneva	Louise Mills	Osteen
Jacqueline Edmiston	Geneva	Michael Muggill	Sanford
James Ellis	Lake Mary	Marcie Petersen	Lake Mary
Paulette Gearity	Deltona	Denika Robbins	Sanford
Robert Harmon	Sanford	Linda Russow	Sanford
Margaret Ingrahm	Sanford	Gary Stenzel	Lake Mary
Steve Katzenberg	Sanford	F. Westerfield	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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone/ e-mail: _____

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Visit our website **SeminoleAudubon.org**



2022-2023 Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/22)

SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com

Term	Name	Office/Committee	Email
2022/2024	Phyllis Hall	President, Website, History	phylliscath814@gmail.com
2021/2023	Leslie Martin	V.P., Ornithology, SAS Premiums	woodstork.martin@gmail.com
2021/2023	Jan Peters	Treasurer	jan@janetkpeters.com
2022/2024	Peggy Stickney	Sec., Publicity, Release Keeper	stickneymargaret@gmail.com
	C.Carey P. Hall, L. Martin	Programs & Field Trips	cacarey@cfl.rr.com , phylliscath814@gmail.com woodstork.martin@gmail.com
2021/2023	Lewis Gray	At Large, Jane Isle Survey	lewisngray@bellsouth.net
2021/2023	Nat Harrison	At Large, CLI Liaison	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,	mterwilleger51@gmail.com
Cecilia Carey	Meetings PowerPoint, Monthly Reminders on Meet Up, Facebook	cacarey@cfl.rr.com
Jim Peters	Purple Martin Project	jim@jameshpeters.com
Connie Dolan	Crystal Lake Preserve Liaison	spidconn318@juno.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, Leslie Martin

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 weekly.

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 State College Earth Week, Altamonte Springs Family Festival Cranes Roost

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, (Chair), 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

Bentley Elementary– Sanford: Joy Rector

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