

The JAY

September - October 2025



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.

A Quick Note from Our President, Phyllis Hall



Phyllis Hall
Photo by Christine Otu

I think I can speak for us all when I say we are glad to have that hot summer behind us and ready to start our fall season. We have a great lineup of programs and field trips. Many thanks to the Programs and Field Trips Committee, which includes Leslie Martin, Cecilia Carey, John Carey, Chuck Honaker, Connie Dolan, and me. Detail descriptions of those can be found on our website under the Birding tab.

If you are on our MailChimp mailing list, you'll receive an email reminder at the beginning of the month for each program and field trip. We hope to see you there!

Conservation Committee Update

The Conservation Committee keeps abreast of any conservation issues in and around Seminole County that we can make an impact on and provide advocacy. Most of the county is developed so we need to keep a tight hold on protecting its voter-approved rural boundary and the natural integrity of the Wekiva River basin. Chuck Honaker has agreed to be Chair of this committee with Phyllis Hall as Co-chair. Other committee members are: Sam Kendall, Sarah Donlan, Cecilia Carey, John Carey, Marguerite Terwilleger, Tracey Comazzi, Fred Milch, and Norman Moss.

Fall Migration

By Chuck Honaker, Florida Master Naturalist

It is still summertime in Florida with frequent thunderstorms, high heat and high humidity, but many birds in North America have already started their migration cycles. They are leaving northern breeding areas for their wintering grounds in the south. We saw early migrant American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and a Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) on our survey August 11, 2025 at Black Hammock Wilderness Area. Various migratory species, including more wood warblers, will arrive here over the next three months. As reported in a *National Audubon Society* online article, "Migratory Bird Initiative," the interactive Audubon Bird Migration Explorer tracks 458 species in migration.¹ Check out Bird Migration Explorer at <https://explorer.audubon.org/home?layersPanel=expand>. Wildlife organizations and volunteer observers around the U.S.A., Central and South America join in to track and monitor migrating hawks, gulls, shorebirds, passerines and other migrants as they make their amazing journeys.

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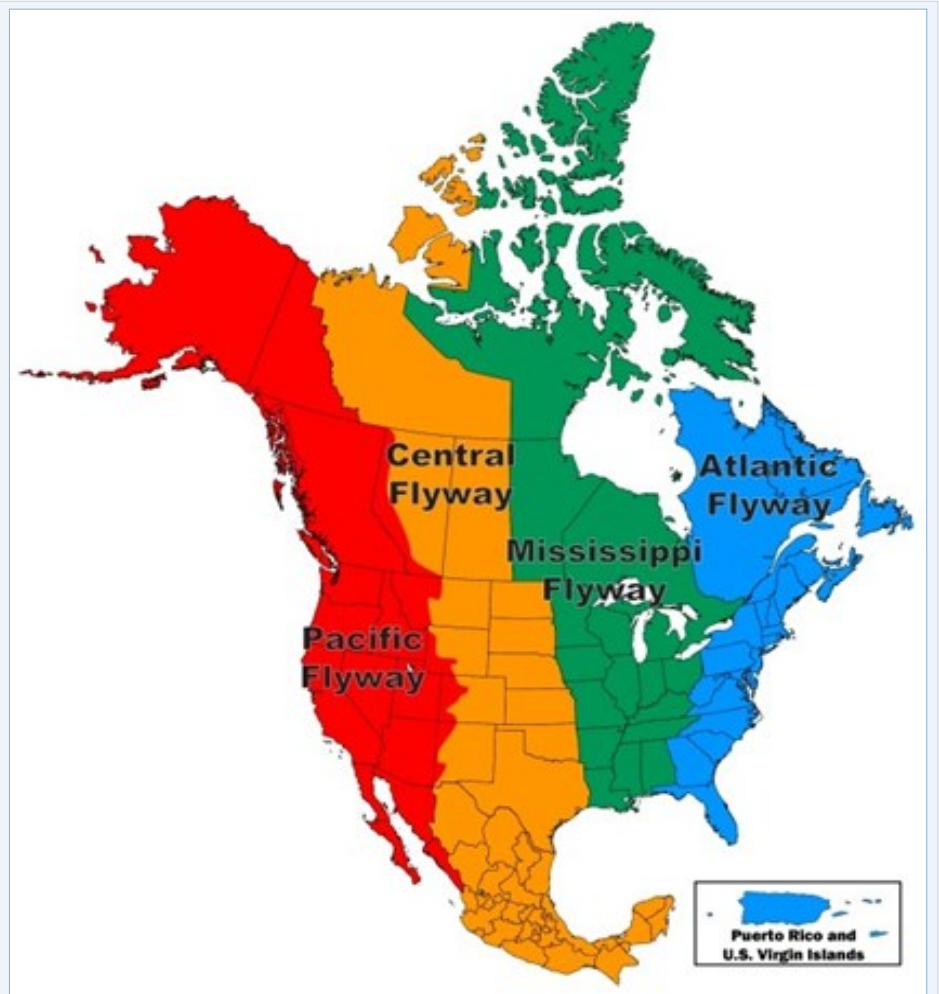
Fall Migration Continued from page 1

Migrants routinely follow particular courses via flyways every spring and fall. Some birds start earlier than others and distances vary. The map below shows the flight path for each of the four flyways in North America – Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific, which connect to wintering areas in the southern U.S., Mexico, Cuba and South America.

We do not have to look far for examples of this phenomenon. We are fortunate to have two long-range migrants that breed and nest in our county: Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) and Purple Martins (*Progne subis*). The Kites, which in the spring arrived around the first week in March, gathered in late July in places such as along the St. Johns River, near Lake Woodruff and in The Corkscrew Swamp near Naples. After resting and fattening up on insects, they begin their hazardous and arduous journey back to Brazil and other areas of South America in early August. The Purple Martins that breed and nest in the nest boxes on Lake Monroe, which are supported by Seminole Audubon Society (SAS) and the City of Sanford, are also on their way back to South America at this time of year. They will fly back to us in the early spring. Closer to the coast, and on Lake Jesup and other area lakes in the fall, one will see the nine-foot-wing-spanned American

White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), which spend their breeding and nesting months on inland lakes in the western U.S. and Canada. This April, I observed them at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, a large wetland on the Central Flyway in western Kansas.

Migration has long been studied and continues to be a focus as our world changes and birds have to adapt or perish. Birds have amazing attributes that help them navigate to and from breeding grounds and wintering grounds. These attributes include the ability to sense magnetic fields in the atmosphere and use polarized light to direct them on their routes. The sun and stars are also important directional beacons for migrating birds. All songbirds fly at night on their long, southbound trips.² The migratory pathways are full of obstacles, which are responsible for the loss of many birds annually. These include large expanses of open water, storms, wind turbines, powerlines, artificial lights and tall buildings. Habitat losses, such as wetlands and coastal marshes, plus a warming climate, can reduce food supplies and safe refuges along the migratory flyways. Some birds, like American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), tend to base migration on food supply or weather conditions and may stay in an area all year if it is suitable. As noted on our Seminole County Natural Lands bird surveys, there were large flocks of Robins in our area this past winter and ample amounts of Dahoon Holly and Sabal Palm berries available for food.^{2,3}



The Four North American Flyways

Source: <https://www.fws.gov/partner/migratory-bird-program-administrative-flyways>

Fall Migration Continued from page 2

There are many interesting facts about individual migrant species. I have listed a few below:

Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), once called rice birds for their fondness of the grain, live in the U.S. Great Plains in areas that have, yes, rice fields, large grassy meadows and prairie areas. They are one of the longest long-distance migrators among songbirds. In the fall, they travel from the U.S. Plains states to the grasslands of northern Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil.⁴

Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisaea*) are strong fliers. They have been long known as having one of the longest migrations of any species. They breed during summer in the Arctic and migrate some 11,000 miles to Antarctica for the winter where they enjoy the Southern Hemisphere's warmest months.

Blackpoll Warblers (*Setophaga striata*) breed along the length of North America from Alaska to Newfoundland and migrate to South America. This makes them one of the top long-distance migrants among warblers.^{5,6}

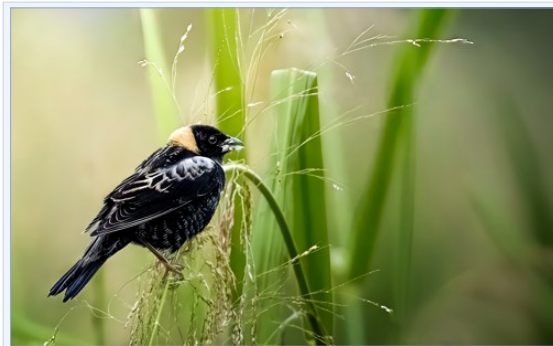
This month, August, and the two that follow, will bring more migrant birds and the following are just a few that will spend time in our area:

- In August and September, red-eyed Eastern Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus/canaster*) will join our white-eyed Eastern Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus/alleni/rileyi*) here in Florida; also, American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*), Pectoral Sandpipers (*Calidris melanotos*), Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), American Redstarts (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Northern Waterthrushes (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) and Eastern Kingbirds (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) will return to the area.
- October will bring the familiar Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) back to our area along with Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) and Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).⁶

If you are an avid birder like me, you are looking forward to the fall return of all the migratory species to Central Florida and closer to the Atlantic Flyway along the coasts of Volusia and Brevard Counties. SAS has great programs and field trips scheduled this year (see pages 10 and 11 for details). There are plenty of opportunities to take guided hikes in the area or just explore on your own. Good birding, everyone!

References

1. "Migratory Bird Initiative," Audubon.com, May 6, 2025, <https://www.audubon.org/our-work/science/bird-migration-initiative>
2. *Birds - A Golden Nature Guide*, Herbert Spencer, pgs. 128-130
3. *What It Is Like To Be A Bird*, David Allen Sibley, pgs. 69, 73, 127, 141, 143, & 157
4. *The Birds Audubon Missed*, Ken Kaufman, pgs. 44-45
5. *National Audubon Field Guide to Florida*, Peter Alden and Rick Cech, pgs. 336-358
6. *The Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds: East Region*, John Bull and John Farrand, Jr., pg. 571



Male Bobolink

Photo by Paul Comazzi, SAS Member



Arctic Tern Breeding Adult

Photo by William Winfield/Audubon Photography Awards



Blackpoll Warbler in Fall Plumage

Photo by Brian Zwiebel, Birds&Blooms

Conservation Subdivisions and How They Can Benefit Birds

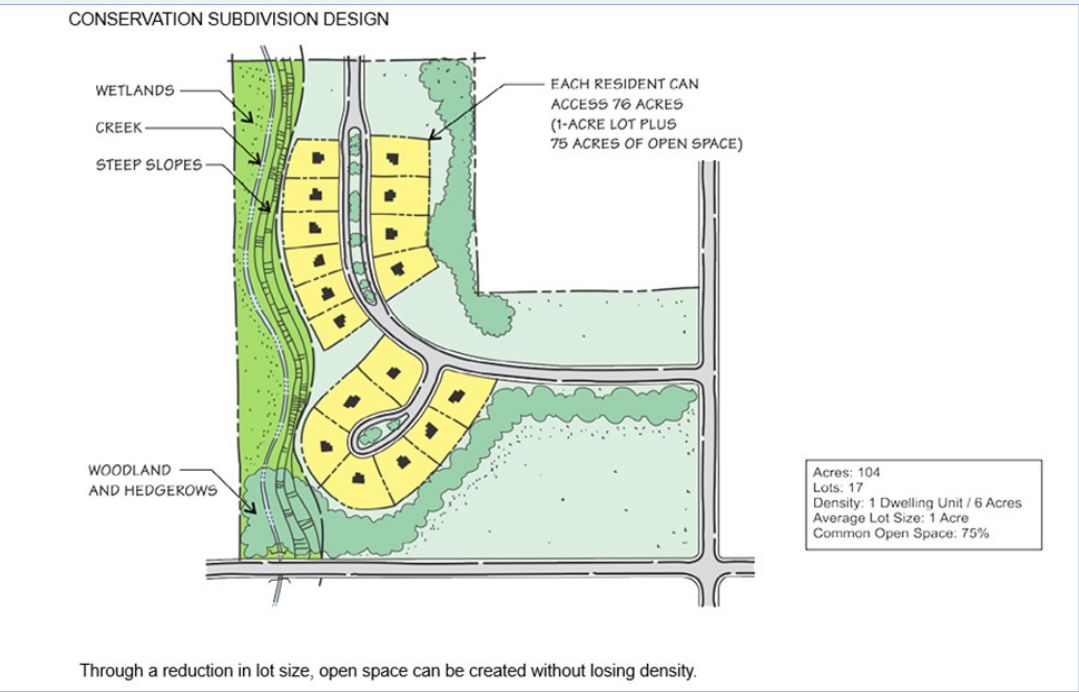
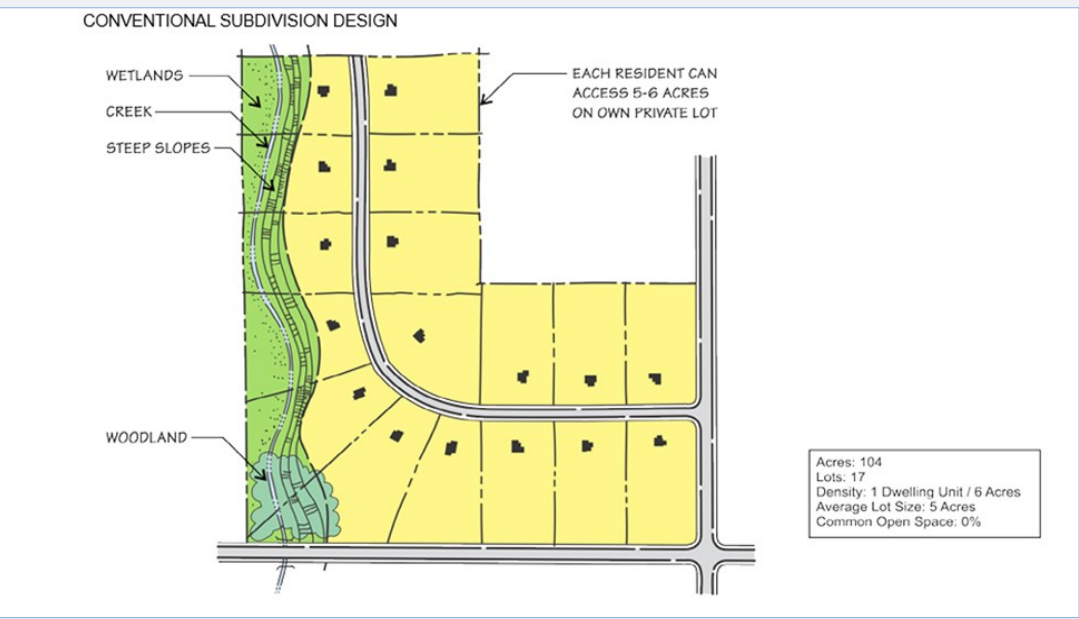
By Fred Milch, SAS Conservation Committee

Development Patterns to Create Spaces for Birds

Development is consuming land at a rate of roughly 120 acres per day, or about 45,000 acres annually (Florida Conservation Group, Feb. 2024). A *1000 Friends of Florida* study indicates that up to 2.2 million acres of agricultural land will be lost by 2070 (a fifth of total Ag land) due to development and sea level rise. Conservation Subdivisions, also referred to as Clustered Developments, can help slow down this inevitable loss.

A conservation subdivision refers to residential development where, by design, the location of homes is concentrated on a portion of the total site and the remainder of the site is conserved for open space or a common space that benefits the residents and wildlife, including birds. The diagrams that follow illustrate

COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGNS



comparisons of conventional and conservation subdivision designs.

Conserved areas could be community farms, stables, shared septic fields or, more commonly, protected wetlands, forests and other areas that remain mostly undisturbed. Usually located outside of intense urban areas, the allowably zoned number of lots are concentrated in one portion of the plat but allow for the same number of homes that would normally be spread around and fill most of the land with development. For instance, rather than building 100 one-acre homes where zoning allows for one unit per acre, those one hundred homes could be on one-third acre lots, utilizing half the land (after roads and drainage are addressed) and the remaining land would be conserved. Wildlife corridors could be maintained regionally and impacts to endangered species could be avoided. Residents can benefit from the trails and beauty of their larger subdivision without having to maintain the larger lot.

Conservation Subdivisions Benefit Birds Continued from page 4

buyers want to live adjacent to an environmentally-protected area, thus the homes will sell more quickly. Also, the development will be significantly less expensive to build because there will be less infrastructure cost, including fewer miles of roadways, fewer linear feet of water, drainage and sewer pipes, fewer electrical poles, and stormwater ponds can be smaller as well.

Bird and other animal populations will benefit from the open spaces even more when the conserved land is adjacent to other conservation areas. The subdivision's open space will act as a buffer between the homes and the larger preserves.

Other avian benefits as identified by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are:

Preservation of Critical Habitat

- *Extensive Protected Open Space:* By clustering homes and allocating large areas as shared, undeveloped land, conservation subdivisions retain forests, wetlands, meadows, and shrublands. These environments are essential for shelter, nesting, and foraging. Many bird species, from songbirds to raptors, find secure spaces to raise their young, build nests, and avoid predators.
- *Maintaining Migration Corridors:* The preserved green spaces serve as vital stopovers for migratory birds. During long journeys, birds rely on natural habitats for rest and refueling. Conservation subdivisions' connected landscapes provide the continuity birds need to move safely across regions.

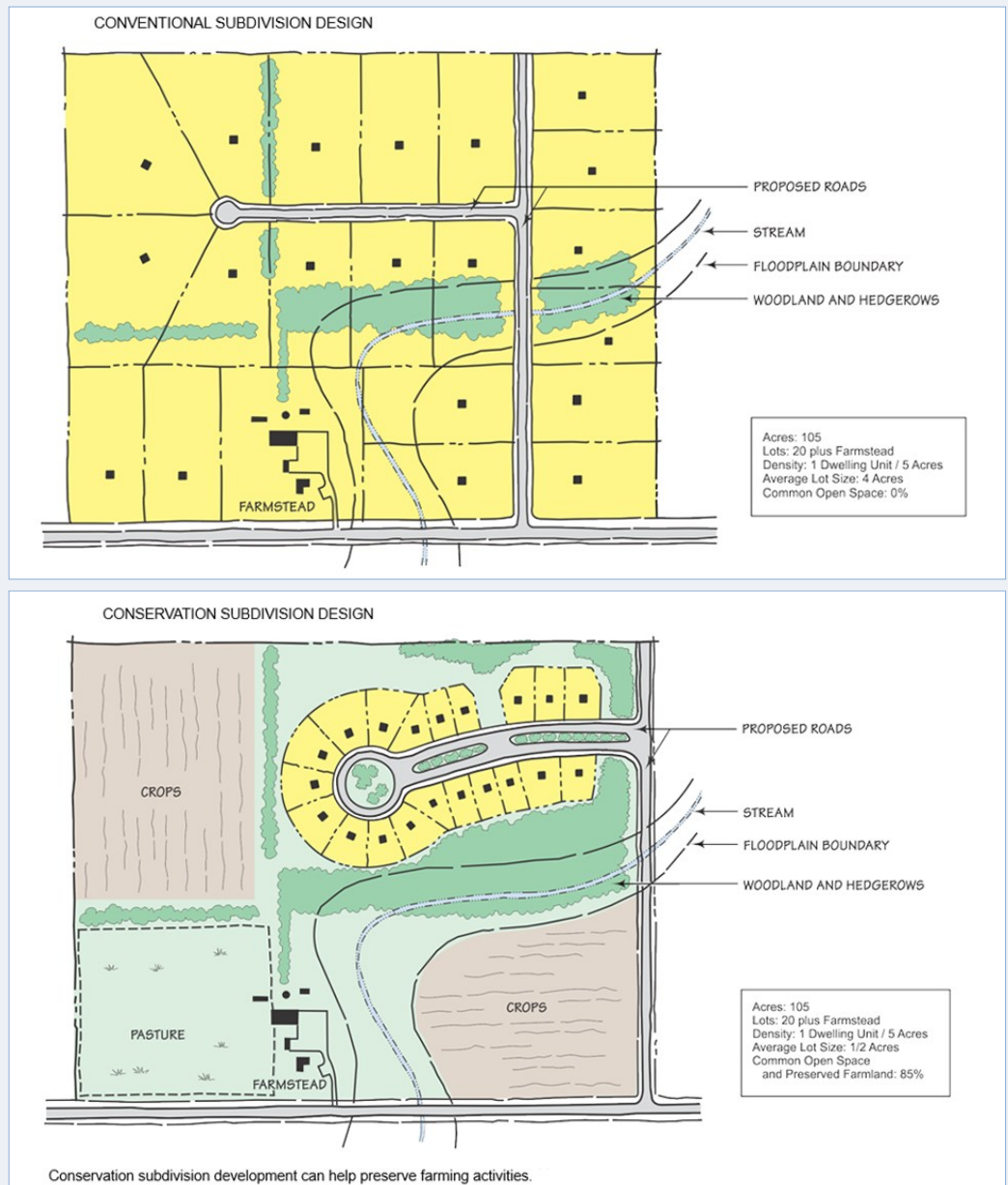
Enhancing Biodiversity and Food Sources

- *Diverse Plant Life:* The variety of native plants in conservation subdivisions supports a rich insect population which is an important food source for many birds. Flowering plants, berry-producing shrubs, and mature trees offer seeds, nectar, and fruit, attracting both resident and migratory birds.
- *Reduced Chemical Use:* Open spaces managed with sustainable practices often limit the use of pesticides and herbicides. This creates a healthier, safer environment for birds and the insects upon which they feed.

Improved Water Quality and Wetlands

- *Healthy Aquatic Habitats:* Conservation subdivisions often protect streams, ponds, and wetlands—ecosystems

COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGNS



Adapted from Examples by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Source: <https://www.sewrpc.org/Local-Planning/Comprehensive-Planning>

Conservation Subdivisions Benefit Birds Continued from page 5

that host waterfowl, wading birds, and songbirds. Clean water and abundant vegetation support breeding and feeding for species like herons, ducks, and warblers.

- **Natural Buffers:** Vegetated buffers along waterways help filter pollutants, reducing the risk of harmful runoff and maintaining the quality of aquatic habitats for birds and other wildlife.

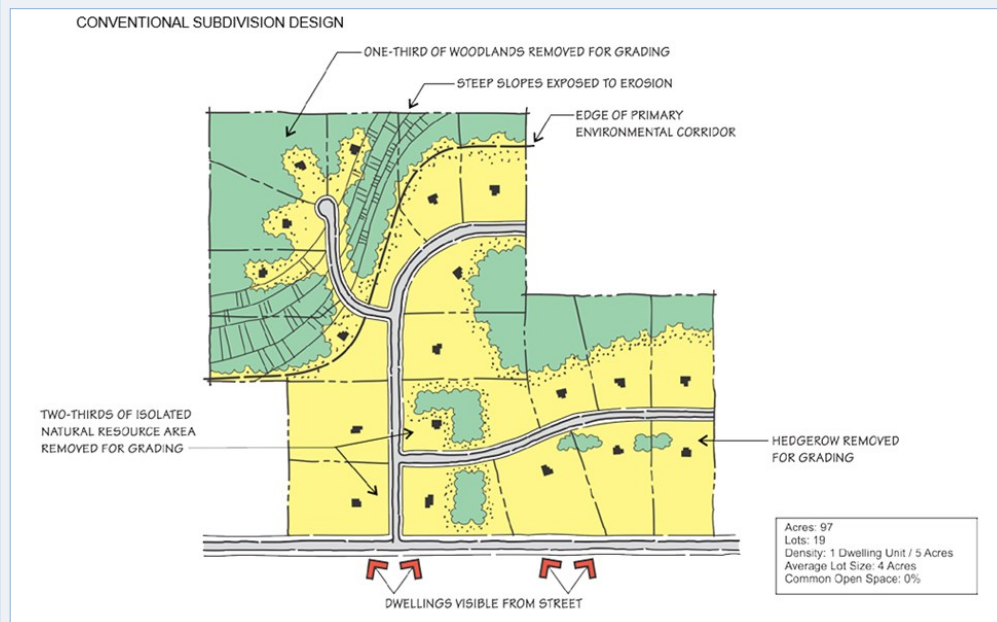
Minimizing Disturbances and Threats

- **Reduced Habitat Fragmentation:** By avoiding the sprawl of conventional development, conservation subdivisions create larger, contiguous natural areas. These unbroken habitats are less vulnerable to predation and disturbance, which is especially important for ground-nesting or forest-dependent birds.
- **Lower Risk from Domestic Predators:** Clustering homes and concentrating human activity means less intrusion into sensitive nesting areas, which reduces the risk posed by domestic cats, dogs, and increased human traffic.

Opportunities for Observation and Stewardship

- **Birdwatching and Citizen Science:** Residents of conservation subdivisions often enjoy more opportunities to

COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGNS 3



observe a diversity of bird life. This fosters an appreciation for birds, inspires stewardship, and can lead to community-based conservation efforts and citizen science, such as bird counts and habitat restoration projects.

Education and Awareness: In these communities, the presence of birds offers daily, accessible opportunities for children and adults to learn about avian ecology, lifecycles, and conservation, building a deeper connection with local wildlife.

In summary, conservation subdivisions create landscapes where birds can flourish. By preserving vital habitats, supporting food webs, and minimizing risks, these developments give birds the sanctuary they need to thrive, while also enriching the lives of the people who share their environment.

Sources:

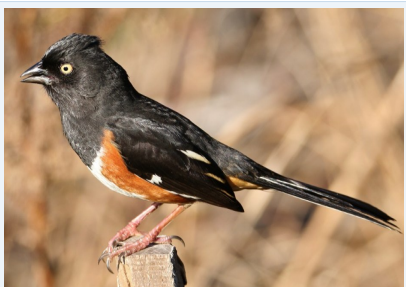
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission,
<https://www.sewrpc.org/Local-Planning/Comprehensive-Planning>

Benefits to birds summarized from IFAS publications at edis.ifas.ufl.edu on conservation subdivisions,

Black Hammock Wilderness Area Bird Surveys Update

By Chuck Honaker, Florida Master Naturalist and Tracey Comazzi, FL Freshwater Master Naturalist

We continue our reporting on the monthly Black Hammock Wilderness Area (BHWA) bird surveys by adding the surveys for July and August, 2025. BHWA is one of Seminole County's nine Natural Lands properties managed by Ron Chicone, Biologist, Seminole County's Natural Lands Department. Seminole Audubon Society (SAS) volunteers spend approximately three hours on the second Monday of the month walking the three-mile survey route and recording the species they see and/or hear. Natural habitats at BHWA include hardwood swamp and pine flatwoods. Thanks go to the volunteers for their hard work and to Mr. Chicone for his support and help with logistics.



Eastern Towhee (White-eyed)
Photo by Daniel Emlin, eBird

Black Hammock Wilderness Area 2025 Bird Survey Data to Date

Total Species to Date: 72	(Total species plus other taxa)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug
Avg. Monthly Species: 27	Monthly Total Species:	35	36	18	24	30	33	19	24
Common Name	Scientific Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug
Anhinga	(<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>)	x							
Blackbird , Red-winged	(<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)		x						
Bluebird, Eastern	(<i>Sialia sialis</i>)		x				x		x
Bluebird, Eastern (Eastern)	(<i>Sialia sialis</i> ssp.)						x		
Cardinal, Northern	(<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Catbird, Gray	(<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)	x	x	x	x				
Chickadee, Carolina	(<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>)	x							
Crane, Sandhill	(<i>Antigone canadensis</i>)	x	x	x	x				
Crow, American	(<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Crow, Fish	(<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>)	x	x	x					
Dove, Common Ground	(<i>Columbina passerina</i>)					x	x	x	x
Dove, Mourning	(<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Duck, Black-bellied Whistling	(<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>)					x	x		
Eagle, Bald	(<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	x	x		x				
Egret, Great	(<i>Ardea alba</i>)					x	x		
Egret, Snowy	(<i>Egretta thula</i>)						x		
Egret, Western Cattle	(<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)				x		x	x	
Flycatcher, Great Crested	(<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>)				x	x	x		x
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	(<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>)				x	x	x	x	x
Goldfinch, American	(<i>Spinus tristis</i>)				x				
Grackle, Common	(<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>)	x	x	x		x	x		Con
Gull, Ring-billed	(<i>Larus delawarensis</i>) ⁷	x							

Black Hammock Wilderness Area 2025 Bird Survey Data Continued from page 7

Total Species to Date: 72	(Total species plus other taxa)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug
Avg. Monthly Species: 27	Monthly Total Species:	35	36	18	24	30	33	19	24
Common Name	Scientific Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug
Junglefowl, Red (Domestic type)	(<i>Gallus gallus</i>)						x		
Kestrel, American	(<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	x							
Killdeer	(<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>)	x	x						
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	(<i>Corthylio calendula</i>)	x	x						
Kite, Swallow-tailed	(<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)					x	x		
Mockingbird, Northern	(<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	x				x			
Flicker, Northern (Yellow-shafted)	(<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	x							
Nuthatch, Brown-headed	(<i>Sitta pusilla</i>)	x				x			
Osprey	(<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)								x
Owl, Barred	(<i>Strix varia</i>)		x						
Parula, Northern	(<i>Setophaga americana</i>)		x		x	x	x	x	x
Phoebe, Eastern	(<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>)	x	x						
Redstart, American	(<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)					x			x
Robin, American	(<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	x	x	x					
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied	(<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>)		x						
Stork, Wood	(<i>Mycteria americana</i>)	x				x	x		
Swallow, Barn	(<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)								x
Swallow, Tree	(<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>)		x						
Swift, Chimney	(<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>)					x		x	
Thrasher, Brown	(<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)						x		x
Titmouse, Tufted	(<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>)	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Towhee, Eastern (Red-eyed)	(<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>)	x	x	x		x	x		
Towhee, Eastern (White-eyed)	(<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> ssp.)						x	x	x
Turkey, Wild	(<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)					x			
Vireo, Red-eyed	(<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>)				x	x	x	x	
Vireo, White-eyed	(<i>Vireo griseu</i>)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Vireo, Yellow-throated	(<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>)							x	
Vulture, Black	(<i>Coragyps atratus</i>)	x	x		x	x	x	x	
Vulture, Turkey	(<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	x	x		x	x	x		
Warbler, Black-and-White	(<i>Mniotilta varia</i>)								x
Warbler, Palm	(<i>Setophaga palmarum</i>)		x						
Warbler, Palm (Western)	(<i>Setophaga palmarum</i> ssp.)	x							
Warbler, Palm (Yellow)	(<i>Setophaga palmarum</i> ssp.)		x						
Warbler, Pine	(<i>Setophaga pinus</i>)		x				x		x
Warbler, Yellow- rumped	(<i>Setophaga coronata</i>)	x	x						
Warbler, Yellow- rumped (Myrtle)	(<i>Setophaga coronata coronata</i>)	x	x	x					
Waxwing, Cedar	(<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)		x						
Woodpecker, Downy	(<i>Dryobates pubescens</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Woodpecker, Pileated	(<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Woodpecker, Red-bellied	(<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Woodpecker, Red-headed	(<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	x		x					
Wren, Carolina	(<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yellowthroat, Common	(<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)				x				

All SAS members and friends are welcome to assist with the surveys. Details on how to participate in these surveys can be found on page 10 under Upcoming Programs and Field Trips or you can contact Chuck at cwh.jr@hotmail.com for details.

Crystal Lake Preserve Butterfly Survey 2025 by Connie Dolan

Crystal Lake Preserve is a 40-acre parcel near Timacuan, purchased and made into a nonprofit preserve by Darrell & Bettye Leidigh in 2005. It is used for conservation and educational purposes; maintenance is managed by Darrell's and Bettye's son, Mark. Maintenance includes periodic mowing of the preserve's perimeter fire break and mowing is paused 4 to 6 weeks prior to the yearly butterfly surveys that are conducted for NABA (North American Butterfly Association).

On July 5, 2025, a butterfly survey was conducted by Kate Dolamore, Susan Angermeier, Nelida Agüero and Connie Dolan. This property is part of the NABA Wekiva River Butterfly Count. We counted a total of 15 species, Monarchs, Queens, Pipevines, Duskywings, and Skippers among them, and saw 50 individual butterflies.



Left: Susan Angermeier, Nelida Agüero and Kate Dolamore, Center left: Monarch
Center Right: Delaware Skipper. Right: Pipevine Swallowtail
Photos by: Connie Dolan

Purple Martin Gourds for Sale

The City of Sanford and SAS upgraded the Purple Martin gourds on Lake Monroe. SAS donated one set of the old 8 gourds and a pole to Lawton Elementary in Oviedo for their Eco Garden. If you would like the other set or know someone who would, contact Phyllis Hall at phylliscath814@gmail.com.



Purple Martin Gourds
Photo by Phyllis Hall



Northern Bobwhite
Photo by Thomas Hellinger/
Audubon Photography Awards

Upcoming Event: 2025 Florida Audubon Assembly.

Florida's premier conservation gathering will be held in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, October 16-18, 2025. This year's theme is *Power of Birds, Power of Us: Science and Joy as Catalysts for Conservation*.

This annual event is where grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their networks and increase knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources. With learning sessions, a keynote presentation, awards, and field trips to some of the birdiest hotspots in the region, Assembly is a great opportunity to network with Audubon members, staff, and volunteers across the state.

For more information and to register, go to:
audubon.org/florida/assembly.

Upcoming Programs and Field Trips

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

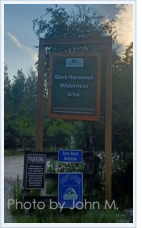
Meeting **Location:**

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

Seminole County Natural Lands Monthly Bird Surveys

Black Hammock Wilderness Area in Oviedo has been selected for the 2025 Seminole County Natural Lands bird surveys. Surveys are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

If you would like to help with these surveys and for site confirmation of the first survey, contact Chuck Honaker at cwh.jr@hotmail.com. All levels of birding experience are welcome.



Program: September 14, 2025, Sunday. Bats: Masters of the Night Skies by Ariel Horner



Did you know that bats are the only mammal that can fly? Or, that one bat can eat up to 3,000 insects a night? Or, how about that they are not actually blind? Ariel Horner of the Florida Bat Conservancy will present myth-busting facts about the critical environmental services that bats provide.

Field Trip: September 20, 2025, Saturday. Birding by Kayak

Kayak the Mosquito Lagoon in New Smyrna Beach. We expect to see a variety of our favorite wildlife including birds, porpoises, manatees, raccoons, and more! Meet at JB's Fish Camp at 8:00 a.m. where you can also rent your kayak or paddleboard.

859 Pompano Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169. Coordinator Leslie Martin.

<https://jbsfishcamp.com/> | <https://jbslagoonadventures.com/rental-information>



Annual Event: October 12, 2025, Sunday. 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 -11:00 a.m. Accessible parking space. No restrooms. Coordinator: Leslie Martin

We welcome all those who would like to enjoy time in nature. This gathering is accessible for all, including those with 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/>



Field Trip: October 18, 2025, Saturday. Black Hammock Wilderness

Black Hammock Wilderness Area is a 700- acre property acquired as part of a comprehensive effort to preserve significant habitat along the shores of Lake Jesup. It is composed of Mixed Hardwood Swamp, Sand Pine Scrub and Pine Flatwoods which provide food and shelter for an equally diverse population of birds and other wildlife. The variety of habitats and beautiful boardwalk and trail system make this property a popular destination. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. We will be walking on trails that might be difficult to navigate with uneven surfaces. No restroom facilities.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at 3276 Howard Ave., Oviedo, FL 32765. Coordinator: Chuck Honaker

Continued on next page

Upcoming Programs and Field Trips Continued from page 10

Program: November 9, 2025, Sunday. May All Your Blues Be Birds by Faith Jones



Photo by Hazel Erikson, audubon.org/

Bluebirds are among the favorite backyard visitors. With their striking colors, musical voices and gentle habits, who wouldn't want to welcome these beauties into the backyard? This Florida Bluebird Society program includes information about bluebirds, their history in America, and some of the challenges they face. It also includes information you need to know before putting up a nest box, how to install a nest box, what to anticipate if you have a nest box, and the native plants they like.

Former Secretary, President, and Birding Instructor of SAS, Faith is a founding member of the Florida Bluebird Society and she continues to serve on their Board of Directors. Faith currently lives in Penney Farms, Florida, where she is responsible for monitoring and maintaining a 40-box Bluebird Trail.

Bluebird nestboxes made by Jim Peters to Florida Bluebird Society specifications will be available at the meeting.

Field Trip: November 15, 2025, Saturday. Sylvan Lake Park

Join us on the new boardwalks to view wildlife and aquatic plants while crossing sensitive wetland areas on the new ADA-accessible Loop Trail. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. Restrooms available. Meet at the park at 8:00 a.m. 845 Lake Markham Road, Sanford, FL 32771. Coordinator: Chuck Honaker

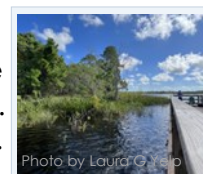


Photo by Laura G. Goss

Field Trip: December 13, 2025, Saturday. Birding at Hontoon Island State Park

Hontoon Island is a 1,650-acre park located on the St. Johns River, southwest of DeLand. We will take a ferry over to the island and then go on a 3-mile walk through mesic flatwoods, floodplain forest and hydric hammock. Restrooms are available on the island. All levels and ages of birders are welcome. We will be walking on trails that might be difficult to navigate with uneven surfaces. Note: some trails may be muddy. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Meet at the ferry boat landing at 7:45 a.m. Hontoon Island State Park, 2309 River Ridge Road, DeLand FL. Coordinators: John & Cecilia Carey

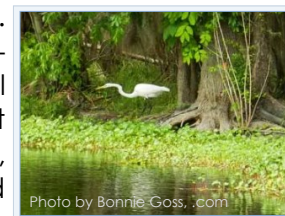


Photo by Bonnie Goss, .com

Program: December 14, 2025, Sunday. Birding at Ponce Inlet and a Birdy Christmas Card by Joan Tague

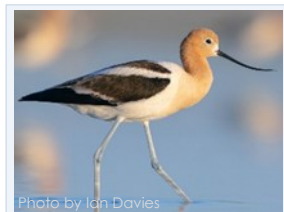


Photo by Ian Davies

Joan Tague will be presenting a 2-part program with a seasonal twist. The beginning of winter birding at Ponce Inlet brings in many migrants, vagrants and more. Influenced by tides, currents, storms and human activity, the comings and goings of the birds at Ponce Inlet can be varied and surprising. Joan will draw on her experiences as a guest guide on the Marine Discovery Center's Winter Bird Tours, sharing stories and observations. To wrap up her presentation, Joan will examine a holiday classic and its connection to birds.

Joan Tague is President of Halifax River Audubon. She walked through the doors of the Pittsburgh Aviary, an all-bird zoo in 1987, and she has never looked back. Looking for an interesting volunteer opportunity, she instead found her passion. Joan is an "enthusiastic birder." Her path through birding is like so many others that love pursuit - studying, doing the field work, traveling, developing skills, giving back through volunteering for surveys and teaching both adults and children. She regularly guides field trips and walks for Halifax River Audubon, the Ormond Beach Environmental Discovery Center and many other organizations and events while sharing her love for her adopted home of Central Florida. Outside of birding Joan enjoys all things nature, music (in the form of the tuba - the mightiest of all instruments), discussing the merits of craft beer, baseball (Go Tortugas) and more. Before retiring, Joan worked for Bell Atlantic/Verizon as a Marketing Design Engineer.



WELCOME

New Members or New to Our Chapter !

Michael Allgood	Deltona	Elycia Ives	Deltona
James Battillo	Lake Mary	Marcia Kallenberger	Sanford
Don Brouillard	Sanford	Laurie Krummert	Deltona
Barbara Bryant	Osteen	Joan Marsh	Lake Mary
Anthony Butera	Sanford	Judy Peters	Lake Mary
Patricia Cole	Deltona	Amy J. Wettergreen	Apopka
James Famiglietti	Lake Mary	Dennis Woodcum	Sanford
Heriberto Hernandez	Sanford		

Keep Up With SAS



Visit our website at <https://seminoleaudubon.org/>



Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/seminoleaudubonsociety/>



Find us on Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/seminoleaudubon-com/>

Audubon Membership

Your membership contribution supports our chapter and makes you a partner in our mission to promote the awareness and protection of wildlife and the environment that supports it. In addition, you receive membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida including the Audubon and Florida Naturalist magazines.

Join on our website: <https://seminoleaudubon.org/membership/>

Donations are always appreciated to support chapter activities. Consider honoring someone with a donation to Seminole Audubon Society. Just click on the Donation icon on our website. Payment is with credit card or PayPal at <https://seminoleaudubon.org/>.

Jay Newsletter Articles

If you would like to submit an article for the Jay newsletter, contact SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com for information on the deadline for the next issue as well as the guidelines for submission.

2025-2026
Board of Directors & Committee Chairs (eff. 7/1/25)
SeminoleAudubon@gmail.com

Board	Name	Term
President	Phyllis Hall	2024/2026
Vice President	Leslie Martin	2023/2026
Treasurer	Jan Peters	2025/2027
Secretary	Peggy Stickney	2024/2026
At-Large	Lewis Gray	2025/2027
At-Large	Tracey Comazzi	2023/2026
At-Large	Connie Dolan	2025/2027
At-Large	John Carey	2025/2027

Committees

Bird Surveys:

- **The Big Sit!** Leslie Martin
- **Christmas Bird Count.** Leslie Martin
- **EagleWatch.** Sarah Donlan, Chuck Honaker, Phyllis Hall
- **Seminole County Natural Lands.** Chuck Honaker (Chair)
- **Jane Isle Survey.** Lewis Gray (Chair), Marguerite Terwilleger, Leslie Martin
- **Jay Watch.** Chuck Honaker

Conservation. Chuck Honaker (Chair), Phyllis Hall (Co-chair), Sam Kendall, Sarah Donlan, Cecilia Carey, John Carey, Marguerite Terwilleger, Tracey Comazzi, Fred Milch, Norman Moss

Crystal Lake Preserve (CLP). Connie Dolan (Chair), Corrinne Wertz, Peggy Stickney

- **CLP Butterfly Survey Co-chairs.** Connie Dolan, Tracey Comazzi

Education: Garden clubs, libraries, schools and Scouts, Eco-camp, etc. Cecilia Carey (Chair), John Carey, Joy Rector

History Archives. Stored in Seminole County History Museum

- **Electronic files.** Phyllis Hall

The Jay Newsletter. Tracey Comazzi (Chair), Corrinne Wertz

Lake Monroe Purple Martin Nests. Jim Peters (Chair), Jan Peters, John Carey, Cecilia Carey

Lake Jesup Park Clean Up. Leslie Martin (Chair), Marguerite Terwilleger

New Member Welcome Letter. Joy Rector

Media:

- **Meetings PowerPoint, MailChimp, Meet Up, Facebook.** Cecilia Carey
- **Newspapers.** Peggy Stickney
- **Website.** Phyllis Hall

Membership. Marty Shepherd

Nominating Committee. Phyllis Hall (Chair), Leslie Martin, Marguerite Terwilleger

Outreach/Festivals. Phyllis Hall (Chair), Cecilia Carey, Leslie Martin, Joy Rector, Marty Shepherd

PO Box Mail Pickup. Marty Shepherd (Backup: Marguerite Terwilleger)

SAS Gmail Inbox. Phyllis Hall (Backup: Cecilia Carey)

Programs & Field Trips. Phyllis Hall (Chair), Leslie Martin, Cecilia Carey, Connie Dolan, John Carey, Chuck Honaker. Release keeper: Peggy Stickney

Scholarships, Eco-Camp. Marguerite Terwilleger (Chair), Corrinne Wertz, Joy Rector