

Tampa Audubon Society November-December 2016 Newsletter

www.tampaudubon.org

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Hillsborough County Extension, Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner

Photo Club 6 PM

7:00 Potluck dinner ~ Bring dish to pass (optional)

7:30 Meeting and Program

General Meeting December 1 **HOLIDAY DINNER!**

**David Gordon, Quest Ecology
Burrowing Owl Translocations**

David is the Senior Wildlife Ecologist leading the projects to translocation burrowing owls when their initial habitat will be destroyed. Come hear of the methods, the learning, and the successes with our favorite, unique little owl.



Photo of a Cape Coral burrowing owl by John Fagan.

UPCOMING TRIP

**Key West and the Dry Tortugas -
April 10-12, 2017, only 3 spaces**

left!! Bird the Keys to Key West, take a boat to the Dry Tortugas, bird your way back! We're going with Nature Is Awesome Birding and

Nature Tours on a 3 day, 3 night exploration of the southern tip of our state. One single female is needed to share a room. \$1,275 per person based on ten participants in double occupancy includes breakfast, lunches and transportation from Key Largo. Check the [flyer](#) on the website for more details. Contact Sandy Reed at 956-6096, or sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org.

FIELD TRIPS

On most trips we have binoculars to loan, so don't hesitate to come! Unless otherwise indicated field trips do not require advance registration. Most are free. Anyone is welcome!

Dec. 3—Birds and Brunch at Al Lopez. Meet at 9 am to bird Al Lopez, then have brunch at the Village Inn. This park is surprisingly birdy in the winter, so we'll loop the lake, cross the marsh and look for woodpeckers, warblers and waterbirds. Please confirm with Mary Keith if you intend to join us for brunch.

Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

Dec. 10—Lettuce Lake Bird Walk. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot by the Visitor's Center at the park to walk the boardwalk with us. Both Night Herons have been plentiful recently, come see what else we can find. Leader Mary Keith, for more info. Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Volunteers are always needed! You can spot birds, keep the records, or drive the car. Help for as long or as short a time as you are able to give.

Christmas Bird Counts in our area include:

Dec. 17—West Polk Co. Cole Fredericks
cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com

Dec. 18—Alafia (Riverview to Ruskin) Charlie Fisher
chf1shercpa@hotmail.com

Dec. 31—Tampa **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!**
Dave Bowman dsbowman4@verizon.net

FURTHER FORWARD

The trip to **Cuba** has been cancelled due to low registration. However the company Caribbean Conservation Trust, at www.cubirds.com, still has openings for several of its scheduled trips January through April. If you are interested, this is the company with the most experience birding in Cuba.

MERRITT ISLAND, FEB 18-19, 2017 Overnight trip, starting with Blue Heron wetlands, then Black Point and Merritt Island, ending with Orlando Wetlands Sunday afternoon. Contact Mary Keith for list of hotels to choose from if interested.
Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org

RAPTOR MIGRATION IN TEXAS! SEPT. 24 -30, 2017 Trip with WINGS, Inc. to Corpus Christi and the great hawk migration, then Lower Rio Grande Valley for south Texas specialties. Registration required by March 12. Cost \$1576 to \$1770, depending on the number, MAX 10 people. See [flyer](#) on webpage or contact Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org for details.



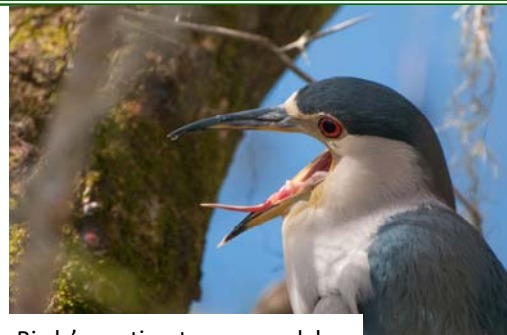
COMMITTEE UPDATE

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Multiple Wins for Wildlife!! FWC approves unprecedented effort to protect vulnerable Florida wildlife

At its November 16-17 meeting in St. Petersburg, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a proposal to designate 13 new Critical Wildlife Areas, including the nesting colonies at Roberts Bay in Sarasota and the Dot-

Dash-Dit islands in Manatee County, and improve five existing CWAs, including our local favorite, Alafia Banks. While some stakeholders initially expressed reservations



Birds' reaction to approvals!

about the proposal, FWC staff did an admirable job of addressing legitimate concerns of anglers and boaters and modifying some of the specific CWA proposals to alleviate their concerns without eliminating protection for the nesting birds at these locations. During Wednesday's public comment period at the FWC meeting, virtually all of the speakers wound up supporting the proposal. It was gratifying to see Audubon Florida and nine Audubon chapters from around the state, including TAS, represented at the hearing. For more information, you can read the FWC's announcement here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/172f760>

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you who participated in local public hearings and/or wrote letters or emails to FWC supporting this proposal. Your voices were heard!

Doug DeNeve, Conservation Chair

If you want to help with conservation issues, contact Doug doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org

More good news from the FWC meeting in St. Pete!

At its meeting in St. Petersburg, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved the Imperiled Species Management Plan, a capstone on five years of work developing the plan, and over a decade of revising the listing process. In the plan, the details of conserving each of Florida's 57 imperiled species are coupled with the broader approach of restoring habitats and addressing other large-scale issues essential to the long-term survival of multiple fish and wildlife species. Twenty one species are included. Four others (brown pelican, snowy egret, limpkin, white ibis) were removed because their populations are stabilized. The recovery of these species from near-extinction due to plume hunting and/or DDT is a tribute to the success of our conservation efforts and to the resiliency of natural systems and threatened species when the threats are removed. If we keep up our efforts and do what we can to support effective conservation programs, we can hope to improve the lot of additional species to the point that they, too can be delisted in the future.

Eric Draper, Audubon of Florida

(For the full text of their announcement today, go here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/1732f77>)

