

The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society December 2017 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org



General Meeting Thursday, December 7, 2017

Hillsborough County UF Extension Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
6 PM Photo Club ~ 7:00 PM **HOLIDAY** Potluck dinner ~ 7:30 PM Meeting and Program
Bringing a dish to pass is optional.

General Meeting December 7

Speaker: Dr. Philipp Boersch-Supan USF



Southern Royal Albatross
@pboestu

Measuring the lives of ocean wanderers

Albatrosses and penguins exploit the resources of the world's largest habitat - the open ocean. Understanding the foraging behaviors and life-history strategies of these fascinating birds is challenging given their vast foraging grounds and long lives. Dr. Boersch-Supan will describe some of the technology he uses to study pelagic seabirds, and how he combines field observations with computer models to better understand how seabirds deal with a dynamic and changing environment.

Dr. Philipp Boersch-Supan started his career as a field ornithologist for the German National Park Service. He is currently a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Florida, following graduate training in St Andrews and Oxford and a brief stint at the British Antarctic Survey.

UPCOMING 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. Everyone is welcome!

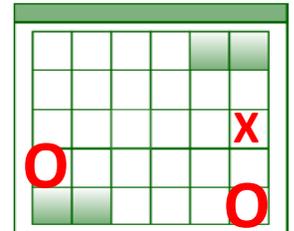
Dec 9 — Lettuce Lake Beginners

Bird Walk. Meet at 9 am in the parking lot by the Visitor's Center at the park to walk the boardwalk with us. Our winter warblers are here, the night herons are roosting again, come see what else we can find. Done by noon. Leader is Doug DeNeve, for details contact Doug.DeNeve@tampaaudubon.org



CBC HELP NEEDED!

You can count all day, you can count for a couple of hours. You can travel, depending on where you live you might be able to count in your own backyard! But we need eyes, ears and fingers (to keep the notes) to help with our Christmas Bird Counts.



Sat 12/16 Lakeland CBC - Contact Cole Fredricks for info or to sign up: cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com

Sun 12/17 Alafia CBC - South Hillsborough County Contact Charlie Fisher for info or to sign up: chf1shercpa@hotmail.com

Sat 12/30 Tampa CBC - Contact Dave Bowman dsbowman4@verizon.net or Mary Keith mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org to sign up.

Tues 1/2 Lower Green Swamp CBC - Contact Cole Fredricks for info: cfredricks@tampabay.rr.com

Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks Jan 11, Feb 10, Mar 10



COMMITTEES UPDATE



Mic McCarty's monthly counts at the Schultz Preserve keep turning up new birds. Insect counts have found bees never before seen east of Texas, breeding butterflies at the northern edge of their known range, and more. This is turning into a much more interesting bit of conservation land than was ever expected. So, we're going to do a BIOBLITZ!

DATE: SATURDAY JANUARY 20
TIME: 7 AM TILL NOON
PLACE: SCHULTZ PRESERVE
Adamsville Rd, Gibsonton

The idea is to gather as many experts and helpers as possible and try to identify as many of the living things on the property in one day as we can. Sun City Center Audubon is helping, Native Plant Society has been invited, and more. If you want to help, contact Mary at mary.keith@tampaudubon.org or John Lampkin, Conservation Chair for Sun City Center Audubon at JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com



Loggerhead Shrike at Schultz, Mic McCarty.

The Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve is 120 acres of restored lands on the north side of Port Redwing and the Manatee Viewing Center. County and state agencies spent millions of dollars to restore it from degraded industrial area.

After restoration, the area is now a mix of salt and freshwater marshes, upland pines and mixed trees, with oyster bars in the mangrove areas. So far 139 species of birds have been reported, both resident and migrants. Latest addition was a Clapper Rail!

A several mile walking trail loops through it from the parking area at the west end of Adamsville Rd south of Gibsonton. There are no facilities, but it is a lovely walk, slightly weedy (promised to be mowed in time for the Blitz.) but very birdy!



Valley Carpenter Bee, found at Schultz Preserve by John Lampkin. First report of this species east of TX!

This area has been targeted as a terminal site for a proposed ferry, which could have a major, serious impact on area. By documenting who and what is using the land we hope to protect it for the birds, butterflies and more.

If anyone goes birding, (or butterfly-ing) in the area, please send your list to Mic McCarty so that your sightings can be added to the growing database for this property. [mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org](mailto:mccarty@tampaudubon.org)

We are still working on getting the permits to start our quarterly surveys at the Rock Ponds area as well. If you may be able to help with those, or if you are interested in being added to the Conservation Committee contact list for on-going information on these and other local concerns, contact Doug: doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org

THANK YOU!
TO EVERYONE WHO HELPS PROTECT OUR ELAPP LANDS AND OTHER REMAINING WILD AREAS!
THE BIRDS THANK YOU TOO!



NEXT YEAR'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

ST MARK'S NWR AND WAKULLA SPRINGS **JANUARY 12, 13, 14, 2018**

There are still some spaces available for this trip! And the Vermilion Flycatcher is back this year!

We'll meet at **Fanning Springs Park** at noon for picnic lunch and birding (It's about 3 hrs drive north of Tampa.) on Friday, Jan 12, then drive to **Wakulla Springs State Park**, south of Tallahassee to check into the historic Lodge and bird in the park before dinner.

<http://www.wakullaspringslodge.com/>



E. Wood-Pewee, St Marks, Roger Sheets

Saturday, Jan 13 after breakfast (7:30 am) at the Lodge we'll head for **St Mark's NWR** for a day of birding, with a box lunch from the Lodge. (Two years ago the first bird we saw was a vermilion flycatcher!) The Refuge is known for ducks and other northern



Sandy Reed, at St Mark's

migrants spending the winter, as well as resident eagles and shorebirds. The walk and observation deck at the Visitor's Center are great places for warblers, vireos and more, while the lighthouse area will have ducks and shorebirds. For dinner we can go to the Lodge dining room or try one of several good restaurants in the area. https://www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks/

Sunday morning we'll have reserved seats for the 9:40 am boat trip (accompanied by flotillas of hooded mergansers) on the Wakulla River rising from the huge spring in front of the Lodge. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wakulla-Springs> On the way home to Tampa, anyone interested can meet the leader again at the **Crystal River Archeological Park** at 2 pm for more birding along the river, marshes and on the mounds of the park.

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Crystal-River-Archaeological>

Cost of \$30, paid to Tampa Audubon Society, covers box lunch, boat ride and park entrance. Rooms and meals are in addition. Room rates at the Lodge are from \$129 to \$169/night, depending on the room you choose. BUT if you call and register for the TAS block of rooms you will receive a 10% discount.

A separate flyer with more details is on the website. Registrants will receive maps and detailed directions.

For more details, to register, how to get the room discounted, or arrange for carpooling, contact leader Mary Keith mary.keith@tampaudubon.org or 813-767-5863, or check the [website](#).



shutterstock · 163728194

Remember



Membership Renewals

If you renew your Audubon membership through TAS we get the funds sooner.

When you receive your notice to renew from National Audubon, just download the application form from our website, or even just cut out the address label from the Audubon magazine, and send it to us with your check. We then forward your renewal to National, but we've recorded it here first. Thank you!!

Smile!

It doesn't have to be Christmas to use Amazon Smile and choose TAS. **But it is Christmas, so do your on-line shopping where it will help support our programs!** Here's a link to help: [How to donate to a charity on Amazon](#). If you want Amazon to donate to Tampa Audubon Society Inc, you need to start each shopping session at the Smile URL <https://smile.amazon.com>. They then donate 0.5% of the value of your purchases to TAS.

HELP WANTED!!

LETTUCE LAKE PARK VOLUNTEERS

Roger Sheets, Director of ARC activities at Lettuce Lake, needs more volunteers at the ARC. Duties include: be available once every 2 months to answer questions, direct visitors, keep track of numbers at the Visitor Center, and occasionally lead a walk along the boardwalk. You will need to be certified as a County volunteer, and Roger will provide orientation and training. If interested, please contact Roger at roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

We are still looking for someone to coordinate several events a year when TAS is invited to have an info table. These could include the Clean Air Day, Earth Day or others, usually not more than 4-5 a year. If you'd be willing to help with that, please contact Mary mary.keith@tampaudubon.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



shutterstock · 163728194