



The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society January 2017 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org

Thursday, January 5, 2017

Hillsborough County UF 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

Dr. Richard Raid, UF Barn Owls in the Everglades



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Dr. Raid is a UF professor at the Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade. He has been working with sugar growers in the Everglades, encouraging them to support the barn owl population as an effective rodent control method.

Come hear how he started on this project and how it has progressed.

UPCOMING TRIPS

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. Birds expected include white crowned pigeon, mangrove cuckoo, black whiskered vireo and Cuban yellow warbler among others. One single

female is needed to share a room, one single male to share a room, or space for one couple. \$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@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 such as the beautiful green jay. 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.



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!

Jan 14 —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, and hermit thrushes have joined the usual winter warblers on the scene. Come see what else we can find. Leaders Mary Keith or Doug DeNeve, for more info.

Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org or
Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org .

Jan 21—Circle B Bar Reserve. Meet at 8 am in the parking lot, 4399 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland 33803. It's off Rt 540, SE of Lakeland. Flat walking around the marshes, several miles. Port-a-johns are available at beginning, the Visitor Center opens at 9 am. There is always lots to see at this marvelous place, from gators to gallinules! Contact leader Pam DeNeve if you need more info.

pam.deneve@tampaudubon.org

FURTHER FORWARD

FEB 1— See Circle B Bar Preserve by TRAM! Ride the trails instead of walking, to look for purple gallinules, bitterns, wintering ducks and pelicans, hawks and pelicans. This is a special trip just for TAS and MacDill AFB campers. Our own Pam DeNeve is a guide at Circle B, so was able to arrange this trip for us. It's free, but is limited to 25 participants and you MUST REGISTER WITH PAM. Email Pam at Pam.DeNeve@tampaudubon.org . You must give her your name and contact phone number in case of any last-minute changes.

MERRITT ISLAND, FEB 18-19, 2017 This is an overnight trip, starting with Blue Heron wetlands, then Black Point Wildlife Drive on Saturday, then Merritt Island or Cruickshank Preserve for Florida Scrub Jays Sunday morning, ending with Orlando Wetlands Sunday afternoon. Blue Heron Wetlands are a small set of marshy ponds outside Titusville that we can enter by appointment. Black Point Drive on the Merritt Island NWF is always a great treat. And



hopefully the Vermillion fly-catcher will come back for another winter visit to Orlando wetlands! You'll make your own hotel

reservation for Saturday night. Please let the leader know if you are coming so we know who to look for and where to meet. Contact leader Mary Keith for list of hotels to choose from if interested.

Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

COMMITTEE UPDATE

OLLI Classes to Begin

Natural Hillsborough: An Audubon Adventure

Enjoy a series of one-hour lectures followed by a field trip walk within Lettuce Lake Park in this year's Tampa Audubon-sponsored adventure. Learn how to access and enjoy some of the unique features of the great outdoors of Hillsborough County. **Bring a \$25 check to the first meeting, payable to the Tampa Audubon Society.** You must be able to stand and walk for an hour. Please bring binoculars to class.

January 24 Ann Paul: Beginning Birding

Jan 31 Mike Mullins: Wetlands and Karst

Feb 7 Mary Miller: Bluebirds

Feb 14 Roger Sheets: Wildlife of Lettuce Lake Park

Feb 21 Joel Jackson: Native Plants and Development of LLP

Feb 28: Steve Backes: Hummingbirds in Florida

March 7 Mary Keith: Migration

March 14 Ann Paul: Herons and Egrets

Register online at www.usfseniors.org or call 813-974-2403, option 1 • For more information call 813-974-8036 or contact Sandy Reed at sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org

February Meeting—Feb 2.

Beth Forsy of Eckard Collage will be speaking on the **black skimmer** colonies.

Children's Programs at Lettuce Lake

Jan 7, 8—Pine Trees

Jan 14, 15—Maple Trees, Syrup and Toffee

Jan 21, 22—Florida Constellations

10 am, Visitor Center, \$5 per child accompanied by adult, or adult \$5 without child. Register at

kyled@hillsboroughcounty.org