

The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society November 2017 Newsletter

www.tampaaudubon.org

General Meeting Thursday, November 2, 2017

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

6 PM Photo Club ~ 7:00 PM Potluck dinner ~ 7:30 PM Meeting and Program

Bringing a dish to pass is optional.

General Meeting November 2

Speaker: Kay Prophet, USF



**Our Own:
Florida
Scrub-
Jays**

Found nowhere else in the world, Florida Scrub-Jays are our own unique, opinionated, sassy additions to the world of birds. Kay Prophet has been studying Scrub-Jays at Duette Preserve in Manatee County for some years now, and has a very personal connection to her study participants. Come hear about these jays, their dependence on and integration into the hot, open, sandy scrublands of central Florida. Kay was raised in the Mid-West and had a successful career in the business world. Then she returned to her first love, science, for a degree in Environmental Biology at USF and had been hooked on Jays ever since.

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!



Nov 4— Golden Aster Scrub Nature Preserve

One place in Hillsborough County to find Florida Scrub-Jays! Meet at 8 am, done by 11 am, at the south end of East Bay Road. I-75 exit 250, Gibsonton Dr, west to the light at East Bay Road, then south on East Bay Road for 2 miles to dead end. Trails have soft sand, no shade. Bring water, sunscreen, hats! Spotting scopes suggested. Questions? Leaders: Mic McCarty [mic.mccarty@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:mccarty@tampaaudubon.org), or Connie Anderson connie.anderson@tampaaudubon.org.



Golden Aster Scrub-Jay

Nov 11 — 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 coming through, the water level has come back down, come see what else we can find. Done by noon. Leader is Megan Campbell, for details contact megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org

Nov 19—Starkey Wilderness Preserve



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, likely at both LLP and Starkey. Photo by Greg Clarkson.

Meet at 9 am at Parking Lot 8 of Starkey Park, 10500 Wilderness Park Boulevard, New Port Richey, FL 34655. There is a \$2 entrance fee. All flat walking, some on paved path, some smooth dirt. Woodland birds, we'll be looking for bluebirds, warblers, vireos and more. Bring water, snack, hat. Bring lunch if you

want to eat there afterwards. Contact leader Mary Keith for more information or to set up carpool. Mary.Keith@tampaaudubon.org

Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks

Dec 9, Jan 11, Feb 10



AUDUBON ASSEMBLY REPORT!



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

BIRD SURVEYS— Plans are proceeding for doing bird surveys on both the Schultz Preserve and Rock Ponds areas in SW Hillsborough County. These are great preserve areas that have been restored from previous farm use. SWFWMD is interested in monitoring the changes in bird use across the areas as the restoration progresses. We're expecting to do at least 4 surveys a year at the Rock Ponds. Mic McCarty is spearheading a monthly count at the Schultz Preserve. If you're interested in helping with these, please contact Conservation Committee Chair, Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org Doug DeNeve, or Mic McCarty for the Schultz area, at mccarty@tampaudubon.org

The Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve is 120 acres of restored lands on the north side of Port Redwing and the Manatee Viewing Center. The land



One of several Loggerhead Shrikes on the Preserve 10/28/17. Mic McCarty .

was acquired through the ELAPP program in 1995. Fred and Idah Schultz were the first Audubon Wardens in Hillsborough Co. They often lived in the preserve area or camped on the islands of 'the Kitchen' during hunting and nesting seasons to protect the birds.

County and state agencies spent millions of dollars to restore it from the degraded industrial area it had become. After restoration, the area is now a mix of salt and freshwater marshes,



Red shouldered Hawk, Mic McCarty, at Schultz Preserve. 10/28/17

upland pines and mixed trees, with oyster bars in the mangrove areas. So far 138 species of birds have been reported, both resident and migrants. A several mile walking trail loops through it from the parking area off Andersonville Rd south of Gibsonton. There are no facilities, but it is a lovely walk, slightly weedy but very birdy! Several hills offer views out over the mangroves and bay.

This area has been targeted as a terminal site for a proposed ferry to carry passengers from the South Shore areas to MacDill AFB. Installation of the road, parking areas, piers and more would have a major, serious impact on area. At some points the plot is so narrow that a road would occupy the whole width, leaving no connection to the rest of the land. Boat engine oil and fuel would be detrimental to the fish and marine life that use the Kitchen mangroves and waters.

Those of you on the Conservation Contacts list have received several requests recently to contact our County Commissioners about this land. We don't object to a ferry in principle, but our position is that ELAPP land should not be sold or transferred for development, especially after millions of dollars investment in restoring it. Anyone else interested in being kept up to date on this proposal, or willing to contact commissioners about it, please contact Doug. Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org

And 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 of wildlife using this property. mccarty@tampaudubon.org

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



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.

LETTUCE LAKE PARK VOLUNTEERS

Roger Sheets, our new Director of ARC activities at Lettuce Lake, is looking for volunteers at the ARC. Mostly the duties are to be available in the Visitor Center to answer questions, direct visitors, keep track of numbers, and occasionally lead a walk along the boardwalk. You'll probably only be asked to be there once every 2 to 3 months. 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.

NEXT YEAR'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

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

We'll meet at **Fanning Springs Park** at noon for picnic lunch (It's about 3 hrs drive north of Tampa.) and birding on Friday, Jan 12, then drive to **Wakulla Springs State Park**, just south of Tallahassee to check into the historic Lodge and bird the nature trail in the park. <http://www.wakullaspringslodge.com/>

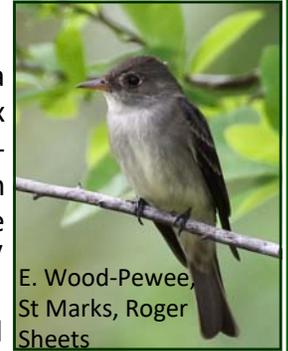
Saturday, Jan 13 after breakfast (7:30 am) at the Lodge we'll head for **St Mark's NWR** for a day of birding, with a box lunch from the Lodge. (Two years ago the first bird we saw was a vermilion flycatcher!) The Refuge is known for ducks and other northern migrants spending the winter, as well as resident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



E. Wood-Pewee,
St Marks, Roger
Sheets

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 will be coming to the website shortly. 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.



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!

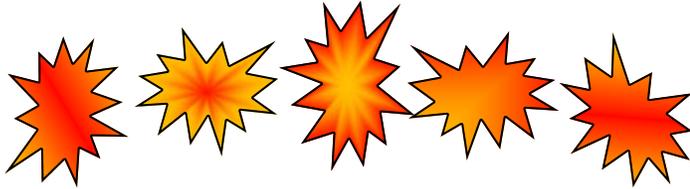
It doesn't have to be Christmas to use Amazon Smile and choose TAS. Here's a link to help: [How to donate to a charity on Amazon](#). If you want Amazon to donate to Tampa Audubon Society Inc, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <https://smile.amazon.com>. They then donate 0.5% of the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

?? PUERTO RICO MARCH 23-29, 2018 ??

At this point we're waiting to hear from Field Guides Inc. about this trip. They have promised to let us know by the end of November whether they think the trip is feasible or not, and what our options will be. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY is holding its Fall meeting on November 10 – 12, 2017, at the Matheson History Museum, 513 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601. Talks, seminars, field trips.



**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**

**TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH
THE FLORIDA BIRDING AND
NATURE FESTIVAL!**



We're still working on the wrap-up details, but somewhere in the vicinity of 400 people participated, either as registered attendees, trip leaders, speakers, vendors or volunteers! Thank you to each and every one of you who helped with the Festival, at the TAS booth or as a trip leader, speaker, or festival volunteer.

The keynote speakers were fantastic, especially Resee Collins from USFWS and the recovery of the Bald Eagle population. Actually, the star of the show was Trouble, a rehab eagle!

Tampa Audubon sold over \$1000 of hats and tote bags (there are still more if you haven't gotten yours yet), and passed out plenty of local information.



Next Year—Already!

We're looking ahead to another festival next year. If anyone has suggestions for changes, or if you would like to be on the planning committee, PLEASE contact Mary. Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

DISCOUNTED PRINCETON PRESS BOOKS

We have a box of new bird-related books donated by Princeton Press and on display during the Festival. We will have them at the meeting, to sell for the discounted Festival prices (30% off list price), first come first served. We also have the order forms, and the 30% Festival discount is good until November 14. If you want to order online before November 14 go to <https://press.princeton.edu/birds> to place your order, then enter the offer code EX210. The discount online is good for any of their publications. The income from the sale of the books we have will be split between TAS and the Festival.

IMPACTS OF THE HURRICANES Birds Caribbean

"BirdsCaribbean has set up a Hurricane Relief Fund to help people and wildlife on the Caribbean islands. The funds they raise will be distributed to their partners across the islands to help them get back on their feet and replace what was lost in the storm—from notebooks, materials and binoculars to offices and infrastructure. They will also be helping to fund bird surveys to learn the status of the invaluable endemics, residents and many migrants, and species' recovery and habitat rehabilitation actions by their partners, such as planting native trees that feed birds and provide habitat.

[Read more about the impact of the hurricanes and give whatever you can](#) - every little bit helps!"



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NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 7

Christmas Potluck!
Speaker to be announced...
Happy Birding everyone!

