

The Avocet

# Tampa Audubon Society October 2017 Newsletter

[www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org)

General Meeting Thursday, October 5, 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.

**THANK GOODNESS WE  
SURVIVED IRMA! HERE'S  
HOPING YOU HAD MINIMAL  
DAMAGE TOO!**



## General Meeting October 5

**Speaker: Holley Short, Audubon Florida  
Audubon Florida Stewardship Program**

Bird stewards play a vital role during the shorebird nesting season along the Gulf coast. The stewardship programs throughout the state help get more people out on the beach who care about protecting our shorebird families with public education. Stewards ensure that the public are respectful of posted areas with camouflaged nests and aware of tiny chicks roaming the beach. Without stewards, beach-nesting birds would not be successful.



Holley Short found her love for shorebirds and passion for protecting nesting birds along the Gulf in 2012 as an intern in Sanibel. She's been with Audubon Florida since 2015, first as a Stewardship Coordi-

nator in Sarasota County during the breeding seasons and a non-breeding shorebird monitor in Pinellas County. Now, as the Project Manager within the Sun-coast Shorebird Partnership, Holley works with anchor stewards, coordinators, and other partners to recruit and organize volunteers for the bird stewardship and monitoring program.



## 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!

**Oct 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. 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](mailto:megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org)

## Florida Birding and Nature Festival!

**Oct 13, 14, 15**

[www.fbnfestival.org](http://www.fbnfestival.org)

Field trips, **Boat trips**, Seminars,  
**Keynote Speakers**, Family  
**Wagon Ride**, **Kid's Activities** &  
**Nature Expo FREE!**

Registration - \$30 to \$65 for field  
trips, \$20 for up to 7 seminars,  
\$25 per keynote includes meal.



Tampa Audubon will have a table there with information on local birding, and be selling tote bags and shirts with the festival logo. **If you'd be able to help at the table for several hours on Fri or Sat, please contact me to let us know when you can help. Four hours of time gives you entry into the seminars that day.** [Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org)

**If you could coordinate the volunteers for the table, that would be super! Pat broke her foot and can't do it! Please let me know!**

If you would like to **volunteer for the Festival** for other tasks or days, **please contact Andee Richards, at [emailandeerichards@gmail.com](mailto:emailandeerichards@gmail.com)**. Give her your name, phone, and the days and times you'd be available to help. *Not all the work will be on festival days, some will be in the week preceding the events.*

### **Oct 7 West Shore Sanctuary Clean Up—**

**HELP NEEDED!** This beautiful little mangrove inlet on the bay is co-managed by Tampa Audubon, Sierra Club and Port Authority. Every year we have a clean-up morning to remove accumulated trash. Meet at the west end of San Jose St, off West Shore south of Kennedy. When you get to the T bear left, and park near the dumpster. Plan to work from 9 to 11 am. Please bring gloves, wear boots or shoes that can get wet and dirty. A hammer, crow bar, etc. could be helpful since the local kids seem to like creating shacks in there... We'll have trash bags, a dumpster and other needs. Water & snacks will be provided. Any questions or to sign up, contact Bev at [bevgriffiths@verizon.net](mailto:bevgriffiths@verizon.net) or 813-210-4850 (mobile).

### **Oct 8 Itchepackesassa & Lower Green Swamp. 8 am**

Limited to 12 people. Meet at the Lower Green Swamp Preserve parking area at 3612 E Knights Griffin Rd, Plant City, at 8:00 AM. The preserve, at the southern edge of the Green Swamp is a haven for a variety of Florida wildlife. We will bird a 1.6 mile loop trail, with an optional half-mile extension for anyone wanting to have a look at Itchepackesassa Creek then drive to Itchepackesassa Creek Wetlands Restoration site to scan for wetland birds. Bring water, snacks, insect and sun screen. Contact Doug to register: [doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org](mailto:doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org)

**Oct 28, MacDill AFB Shorebirds to Bluebirds! 8 am**  
**MUST REGISTER FOR BASE ENTRY!** Contact Sandy

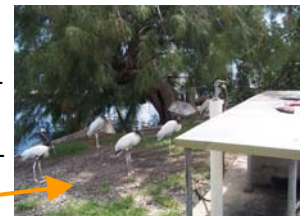
for registration details, or see the website. Limited to 20 people. Bring water and lunch.  
[Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org)

## **Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks** **Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 11**

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### **BIRD PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Bird Protection Committee is working to install carcass chutes at fishing piers, boat ramps and docks in the region, to prevent bony fish carcasses from being fed to Brown Pelicans and other seabirds. The chutes deposit the carcasses below the surface of the water, out of reach of the birds. Pelicans often end up with carcasses stuck in their throats and die slow painful deaths. The chutes also prevent birds from learning to come to people for food, which puts them in danger of becoming entangled in fishing line. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife, fishing line is the leading cause of death for Brown Pelicans. As you can see, we have much work to do in Hillsborough County. This is the boat ramp at Gandy. Birds waiting to be fed! Not even trash cans! Wood Storks are state and federally listed as threatened! Your donations to this project are welcomed. Please note Hooked Bird fund on your check (to TAS). And if you know of a boat ramp or other location where birds are being fed, please notify Sandy. [Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org)



#### **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**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 in each location. If you're interested in helping with these, please contact Conservation Committee Chair, Doug deNeve: [Doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org](mailto:Doug.deneve@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](mailto: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](mailto:roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org).

## NEXT YEAR'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

### PUERTO RICO MARCH 23-29, 2018!

**Only 7 spaces left!** Circle the island, find **all 17 endemics** and more, with good food, a great guide (Tom Johnson, of Field Guides) and easy walking! Cost for the 7 days, including the first dinner in San Juan and until delivery to the airport on Day 7, is **\$2,475** per person double occupancy. Single supplement is \$450. Airfare, alcohol and personal items are not included.



Puerto Rican Woodpecker, Tom Johnson

Find the complete itinerary and registration details on the website. Here's a quick summary:

Day 1 starts in San Juan with a



meeting and dinner.

Day 2 leaves early from San Juan, we breakfast Rio Abajo Forest, then walk to the endangered PR Parrot.

Days 2, 3 and 4 we stay at La Parguera and drive out in different directions to the mountains, the coast and wetlands, checking all the habitats for their birds, including a night walk for PR nightjars.

Day 5 we drive to El Yunque, stopping at various birdy spots along the way. We spend the next 2 nights there, with a trip to the coast and Humacao Nature Reserve, walks in the cloud forest, and a search for Antillean Crested Hummingbirds.

Day 7 we breakfast in El Yunque, then return to San Juan for the flight home.



Puerto Rican Spindalis  
Tom Johnson

***At this point we are still hoping to go on this trip! We'll be in contact with Field Guides when there's been time to assess the situation in PR after these hurricanes.***

## 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.



## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

### OCTOBER 20-21 AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

The annual meeting of all Florida Audubon Chapters will be at the Marriott Renaissance in St. Augustine: <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>. There will be field trips, workshops, trainings and speakers. Everyone who has gone in past years has come home energized!

Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI). In addition to the regular Friday morning field trips 25 carefully selected University and College students will be sponsored to attend the 5th annual CLI. If you are interested in engaging with the next generation of conservation leaders you will want to make sure that you sign up to be a co-mentor. Specially crafted to encourage interaction, seasoned leaders (such as yourselves) will learn what makes young folks tick and these young environmentalists will meet Audubon and learn about the opportunities for conservation careers. You can be paired up with a student and participate in a field trip or walking workshop on Friday morning. The students will then join us for the balance of the Assembly. Students from previous CLI sessions have joined Chapter Boards, started college Audubon chapters and engaged in their own conservation projects. Please consider being a co-mentor.

**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.

### IMPACTS OF THE HURRICANES

**This is not usual Newsletter material, but these have not been usual times for our families, friends, birds or ecosystems. So I'm taking the unusual step of including some information on helping our birds. There's lots of info out on helping people, do what you can, or want.**

**Also, remember that the migrants are still coming, needing food. If you have feeders, keep them full. And keep an eye out for unusual users! The birds will appreciate it!**

### Florida after IRMA

**From:** *Eric Draper*, Exec Director, Audubon Florida:



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“People have asked, so here are brief notes about Audubon of Florida’s locations:

- Audubon’s Everglades Science Center in the Florida Keys, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, and Miami office are all closed. The Corkscrew boardwalk was damaged, but repairs are underway thanks to our hard-working staff and volunteers. Our Keys staff evacuated, and we are concerned about their ability to resume their routines when they get back on the islands. We don’t know about damage to the center and equipment but may have lost years of fish samples when backup power failed. We hope to have Audubon’s Miami office open and online Monday.

- The Tampa Coastal Islands Sanctuary office in Tampa is open.
- The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is functioning without electricity - luckily, birds don't need A/C. All resident birds and patients are accounted for and safe. No damage to the clinic, facilities or enclosures.
- The Tallahassee office is open.

Coastal field and research staff mostly evacuated and are all accounted for and safe.

As we watch government response to the storm, we can expect significant investments in infrastructure and recovery along with rollback of environmental rules. We’re keeping a close eye on this already. Going forward, Audubon will push for funds to be used for more resilient coasts and watersheds and for strict standards to protect and restore rather than displace natural habitat. “  
To donate to help Audubon recovery, [click](#) here.

### 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!”