



The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society Summer 2017 Newsletter

www.tampaudubon.org

Audubon-Sierra-Native Plant Joint Meeting


Wednesday July 19, 2017 5 pm to 8 pm

Hillsborough County UF Extension Conference Center, 5339 CR 579, Seffner
Potluck dinner ~ Bring dish to pass
Program follows dinner!

Joint Meeting July 19

The Joint Meeting this year will be at the Extension office where we usually meet.

Bring a dish for sharing. Dinner starts at 5 pm. After dinner the presentation will be on the Jan Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program, its history, successes, purpose and the funding that supports it all, as well as its value to the community. The speaker will be Ross Dickerson of Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Land Management office.

If you are planning to go, please email  Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org by early July. The Native Plant Society organizers would like an estimate of how many people to expect, to help them plan the table arrangements and how much space will be needed.

If you don't let them know **YOU CAN STILL GO!** But it would be easier for them to get the rooms set up with space for everyone.

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!

Our monthly beginning bird walks continue through the summer, but **start at 8 am** to avoid the heat.

July 8—Lettuce Lake Bird Walk.

August 12—Lettuce Lake Bird Walk. Meet at **8 am** in the parking lot by the Visitor's Center at the park to walk the boardwalk with us. The water has returned, the birds are back! The warblers are still feeding noisy begging babies! Come see what else we can find. Done by noon. Leader Mary Keith, for more info. Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

FURTHER FORWARD SHORT NOTICE TRIPS!



You received an email announcing the new Sunrise Special field trip at MacDill AFB on June 25. We have been offered the chance to do some of these trips, either as sunrise or sunset

trips on the golf course, by the golf pro at the course. They should be spectacular for photographers, both for views of the sunrise or sunset from the vantage point across the bay that the base course provides, and because the woods, marsh and pond obstacles on the course are known roosts for many local waders and wetland birds. You'll get an email several weeks in advance of the dates, but we can't determine the dates definitively.

Also, later this Summer or into early Fall there will be another short-notice trip for swallow-tailed kites. Whenever we find out where the birds are congregating prior to starting their southward migration we'll send out a notice for meeting time and place to



carpool up to see them. Some years there are 100s of kites over the fields. But the fields change, and the dates are determined by the kites, not us.

So, keep your eyes peeled for more short notice trips!

PUERTO RICO IN 2018! MARCH 23-29

Reservations are now open for our next big trip, to Puerto Rico in the Spring of 2018. This trip makes a circle around the island, visiting a variety of habitats and finding plenty of birds. We should find all the island endemics and more.



Puerto Rican Spindalis
Tom Johnson



Puerto Rican Tody
Tom Johnson

The first night and dinner are in San Juan (go early to do some extra exploring!). Then we'll spend 3 nights in La Parguera and 2 nights in El Yunque rainforest. We'll watch tropicbirds from the cliffs, find Adelaide's warblers in the marshes and Key West Quail Doves in the high forest, plus lots more.

There's a MAXIMUM OF 14 people. We'll travel in 2 vans, so there will be windows for all.

Cost is \$2475 per person, double occupancy, with a single supplement of \$450. This covers hotel and dinner on the 23rd, through breakfast and drop off at the airport on the 29th. Alcohol and personal items are not included, but all meals, transportation, guide and tips are included.



Puerto Rican Woodpecker
Tom Johnson



Our guide is Tom Johnson, Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, columnist for *Living Bird*, and a graduate of Cornell Univ. Also a great guide!

Go to <http://www.tampaudubon.org/> to see the flyer, read the full itinerary and download the registration form. You will pay Field Guides Inc. directly for the reservation (\$250). The remainder will be

due by November 23rd, and you will receive a bill for that directly from Field Guides. They do NOT accept credit cards.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WELCOME AND TABLING COMMITTEE



We are **looking for someone** to coordinate some greeters to welcome people to our meetings, and be the contact person for the various festivals and events we attend. If that would be right up your line, or if you have any questions about the position, please contact Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org.

BIRD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Our committee was awarded a grant for \$1000 from Audubon Florida for use on our project. We will be using this money to construct fish cleaning stations with carcass chutes or macerators, pending site by site approval from FFWCC. Before August we will conduct a training session for chute construction. Please contact Sandy Reed at sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org if you are interested in helping with this project. (Please email Sandy again, even if you already spoke to her.)

We are **interested in learning of locations** at parks, boat ramps and docks in Hillsborough County where fishing line entanglement is an issue. Let Sandy know if you're aware of any spots that need education. FFWCC also wants to learn of hotspots and boaters who are feeding carcasses to pelicans, with particular attention to the time you see this occurring so they can coordinate officers at that area. You may email FFWCC at TIP@myFWC.com or call their hotline with a tip at 888-404-3922

Our committee meets quarterly at the Gamble Plantation in Ellenton to brainstorm solutions to fishing line entanglement. If you wish to be part of this committee, we welcome your input! Our next meeting is in September. Email me at above address to be added to notification list. We welcome volunteers and your ideas!

Sandy Reed

YOU ARE NEEDED! VOLUNTEER!

FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL OCTOBER 13, 14, 15, 2017



We're taking names for people who would like to volunteer to help the Birding Festival! There will be some help needed before the festival, to prepare the registration bags, etc. Then on the days of the festival we will need help directing people to the Expo, registration, seminar classrooms and more. There are 2 evening keynote speakers and dinners, and a panel discussion with lunch on Sunday.

Volunteers will be asked to spend at least 2 hours at their 'job'. You will get free entry to all the seminars on the day you volunteer.

The field trips and registration are up on the website <http://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/> and more information is being added daily.

If you would like to volunteer for the Festival, please email Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org and give me your name and email with a message that you want to volunteer. You will be contacted later about your time and date availability. Thank you very much!!

And remember, TAS will need some volunteers to help with our table at the Festival too.

BIRD SURVEYS FOR SWFWMD

SWFWMD is interested in having us do some bird surveys on several of their properties. Doug is working with one of their managers to set up dates, locations and access to the areas. If you are interested and able to help, please contact us!

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

LETTUCE LAKE PARK VOLUNTEERS

Closer to home, the coordinator of volunteers and activities at Lettuce Lake is in need of more help. We have traditionally provided volunteers for the Visitor Center. Currently numbers are dropping due to retirements and relocations. 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. Generally you will have one 4-hour shift a month, on the weekend of your choice. You will need to be certified as a County volunteer, and will be given orientation and training. If interested, please contact Mary.keith@tampaudubon.org

BIRD RESCUE

Nancy Murrah and the Bird Rescue team are always in need of a few more good people with vehicles. If you could help them pick up and drive injured birds to get care, please contact Nancy. She'll be happy to give you the training you need to transport injured birds safely.

Nancy.murrah@tampaudubon.org



FESTIVAL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Tickets are on sale now for field trips for the Festival! You can check the list of field trips and register for them at www.fbnfestival.org. Check under Activities for the trips, and Registration to register. Field trips have limited numbers of participants, so register now to get your preferred choice! Info on the seminars will be up soon.



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. Personally I have an Amazon Smile on my browser's navigation bar that points to "smile.amazon.com". Now I don't even think about it—it's free money for TAS."