

The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society April 2018 Newsletter

www.tampaudubon.org



General Meeting Thursday, **April 5, 2018**

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.

Pelagic Birds and Florida

Speaker: **Michael Brothers**



Black-capped Petrel, **White-tailed Tropicbirds**, Bulwer's Petrel, Manx Shearwater, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel –

these are names that set a birder's heart racing in Florida. The pelagic birds are one of the last frontiers of our understanding of Florida's avifauna. These birds of the open ocean come from distant shores of the Arctic, or remote islands of the Caribbean and South America, or from the coast of Europe, north-west Africa, and even islands off Antarctica. These great travelers pass by our shores largely unseen. The difficulties of offshore access limit the numbers of observers, and this is compounded by the challenges of identification. Our knowledge is often limited to coastal observers getting a brief glimpse of a shearwater or storm-petrel. Systematic studies of Florida's oceanic birdlife are very few.

Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, has been leading pelagic trips off the coast of Florida and Georgia for the last 12 years. This program will offer an introduction to this challenging group of birds as we continue to try to unravel the dynamics of the occurrence of these birds and their relationship to the oceanic environments.



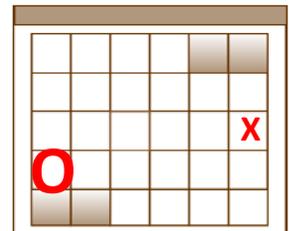
UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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! **As always, check the TAS website for details.**

April 6-8—Cape Coral, Babcock Webb Overnight trip for all the Ft Myers' area specialties, from burrowing owls to parakeets, then greet the dawn on the way home Sunday looking for red cockaded woodpeckers. Contact Sandy Reed for details.

April 14 — 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 Mary Keith.

Sat April 21—Cockroach Bay. Meet at parking lot of Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve, 3938 Gulf City Road, Ruskin. 8 am. Spring Migration! Easy walk, but sunny. Bring hat, water, etc. Leader is Mary Keith.



Sun. April 22—Earth Day

Walks at Lettuce Lake Special 10 am and 2 pm bird walks at LLP for Earth Day. Extra help leading will be greatly appreciated! Please come help show off our birds and great park!

Sat April 28—Ft DeSoto 7:30 am - Meet at flag-pole at the ranger station. Finished by 2 pm. Spring Migration! Driving to various hotspots within Ft DeS, easy hiking up to 1 ½ miles at some locations. Bring lunch. Leader is Sandy Reed.

Also April 28—West Shore Audubon Sanctuary CleanUp 9-11 am. South on Westshore, right at W. San Jose Street. Follow W. San Jose, bear left at an S-shape curve. The Sanctuary is located on the right. For more detailed directions contact Bev Griffiths, bevgriffiths@verizon.net, or 813-210-4850. Please wear closed-toe shoes, hat/visor and sunglasses. Be prepared to get wet and dirty. Gloves, trash bags, water and a light snack will be provided.



Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks

May 12, June 9, July 14

June, July and August walks start at 8 am!

HELP AT CLEAN AIR FEST

May 3, at Poe Plaza downtown, from 10 am to 2 pm. TAS will have an information table there. If you'd like to help the spread the word about all we do and could share an hour or two for that, contact Mary.



NEXT MONTH'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

May 5—Colony Watch, Lake Forest colony 5:30 pm
May 12—Lettuce Lake Beginning Birders
May 28-31—Highlands County VA Spring Migration



WANT TO HELP EVEN MORE?

Tampa Audubon is in need of someone to coordinate our table display for various **events**. There are usually only 4-6 a year, mostly in the spring.

Also, we'll be needing some **new members** for the **Board of Directors** at the next election. The Board meets almost monthly, usually ~10 times a year, on the second Thursday of the month. If you think you might be interested and would like to sit in on a meeting, please come! March 8 and April 12 are our next meetings, at 7 pm, in the north meeting room of the Extension building.

If you're interested, willing, want more details about

any of these, or want to nominate someone, please contact Mary, or any member of the current Board of Directors. We're all listed on the website, under About Us in the left-hand column at www.tampaaudubon.org.

Golden Aster Scrub-Jays Reprived!

Of course Florida ScrubJays don't read our plans. Why else would a female show up and nest building begin just when the county was planning to move our 3 guys to Duette? But that's what happened, so they're there for the summer at least. Go visit them at Golden Aster!



THANKS TO THE GAME PLAYERS! Nine brave folks played Game of Floods for USF researchers for 2 hours Sunday afternoon. They didn't bankrupt us, we didn't solve all their problems, but they have lots more ideas for how to create realistic situations for communities to use to plan their futures. **MANY THANKS!!**

CONTACT LIST FOR TRIP LEADERS and BOARD

Mary Keith, Pres. Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org
Sandy Reed, VP. Sandy.reed@tampaaudubon.org
Michelle Hoffman Wrobel, Treasurer
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Sherry Keller, Secretary, trip leader
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Megan Campbell, trip leader, BoD Member
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Doug DeNeve, Conservation Chair, trip leader
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Roger Sheets, Lettuce Lake Volunteer Coordinator
roger.sheets@tampaaudubon.org
Mic McCarty, trip leader BoD Member
Mic.mccarty@tampaaudubon.org
Nancy Murrah, 2nd VP of Board, Raptor Rescue, Eagle Watch
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Pam Deneve pam.deneve@tampaaudubon.org
Connie Anderson, BoD, trip leader connie.anderson@tampaaudubon.org
Rob Yoho rob.yoho@tampaaudubon.org

LETTUCE LAKE PARK VOLUNTEERS



Roger Sheets, Director of ARC activities at Lettuce Lake, would love a few more volunteers at the ARC. Duties include: be available once every few months for a weekend afternoon 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**.



Sponsor a Bluebird Box

For \$10 per box, anyone can sponsor one or more boxes of the 51 bluebird boxes on the Flatwoods Park Bluebird Trail. You will receive a weekly report of the happenings in your box during the nesting season, March – August. To become a sponsor, follow the directions on the sponsorship form ([click here](#)), or find the form online at tampaudubon.org. You will receive a reply from Mary Miller once she receives your information and weekly reports will be sent beginning in March. The bluebirds thank all of our past and future sponsors!



Mary Miller, Flatwoods Park Bluebird Trail Monitor
Mary.miller@tampaudubon.org

Invitation

Rosebud Continuum Open House on May 12, 2018.
7543 Land O'Lakes Blvd. Land O'Lakes, FL 34638
The event will feature tours of lakeside native plant and wildflower project and newly designed nature trail, and of sustainability education center which includes organic garden, classroom, apiary, biodigester project, aquaponics & hydroponics systems, petting zoo, garden market and more.

Grape Hammock –Lake Kissimmee Trip

We had a great day at Lake Kissimmee, from nesting snail kites practically right off the docks, to young eagles, purple gallinules, one boat even saw a greater swamp hen, which the guide said he had never seen on the lake before. There were barred owls with a shy downy owlet, swallow tailed kites, a cara-



cara, American bittern and more. We stopped for great horned owlets by the side of the road coming home. And several cars went on to find a pair of whooping cranes south of Lake Wales. Happy birding indeed!

Can you see these eggs?!

May Program

Our own PHOTO CLUB shows off their best of the year!

Some are usually available for purchase, so come prepared! Funds help the club.

Remember Membership Renewals

THANKS TO ALL THE RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS WE'VE RECEIVED RECENTLY! If you haven't renewed in some time, you're probably due too. Renew your Audubon membership through TAS so we get the funds sooner. When you receive your renewal notice 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!

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](https://smile.amazon.com). 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 donate 0.5% of the value of our purchases to TAS.