



The Avocet

# Tampa Audubon Society January 2018 Newsletter

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



General Meeting Thursday, January 4, 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.

## General Meeting January 4

Speaker: Jeff Liechty, Audubon Florida



### Rooftop Nesting Least Terns

Least Terns nesting on roof

As Florida's beaches have become more impacted by human activity and development, Least Terns have taken to nesting on rooftops as a surrogate for their traditional breeding habitat. This presentation will give an overview of Least Tern rooftop nesting, the rooftop monitoring program in Florida, and ongoing conservation efforts to sustain breeding populations of threatened Least Terns in the Tampa Bay area. A local group of dedicated volunteers has been monitoring these rooftop colonies and returning fallen chicks back to the rooftops over the last 20 years. Hundreds of these rescued chicks have been banded over the years, and Jeff will share what he've learned from these efforts.

**Jeff Leichy** is the Tampa Bay Area Rooftop Technician responsible for surveys and volunteer management for the Florida Shorebird Alliance and Audubon Florida, primarily in Pinellas County. He received a M.S. in marine and environmental biology from Nicholls State University where he did his thesis on adult survival and diet of Royal and Sandwich terns on the Isles Dernieres Barrier Islands Refuge in Louisiana. He'll be telling us about the rooftop nesting of least terns in the Tampa Bay area.



Least Tern chick fallen from a roof

## 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!

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**Jan 13 — 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 Doug DeNeve, for details contact [Doug.DeNeve@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Doug.DeNeve@tampaaudubon.org)



### Jan 12, 13, 14—St Mark's NWR, Wakulla Springs SP

Overnight trip, \$30 for box lunch, boat ride and park entrances. Hotel additional. See flyer on webpage or contact Mary Keith for details. Maximum 20 people.  
[Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org)



Vermillion Flycatcher,  
Sandy Reed, at St Mark's

**OLLI Classes** at Lettuce Lake Park begin Jan 23, every Tuesday for 8 weeks. Contact Sandy Reed for details.  
[Sandy.reed@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampaaudubon.org)

**Space Coast Birding Festival Jan 24-30.**  
[www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org](http://www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org)

### Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 12

Tampa Audubon Society, PO Box 320025, Tampa, FL 33679



## BIOBLITZ!!

Monthly counts at the Schultz Preserve keep turning up new birds. If you saw the article in the Tampa Bay Times about Grasshopper Sparrows, Mic has seen two so far at Schultz. Granted, those were migratory birds, not the endangered resident Florida Grasshopper Sparrows. But it's exciting to know they're using the Preserve. So, we're going to do a BIOBLITZ to see what else is there!

**DATE: SATURDAY JANUARY 20**  
**TIME: 7 AM TILL NOON**  
**PLACE: SCHULTZ PRESERVE**  
Adamsville Rd, Gibsonton

The idea is to gather as many experts and helpers as possible and try to identify as many of the living things on the property in one day as we can. Sun City Center Audubon is helping, Native Plant Society has been invited, and more. If you want to help, contact Mary at [mary.keith@tampaudubon.org](mailto:mary.keith@tampaudubon.org) or John Lampkin, Conservation Chair for Sun City Center Audubon at [JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com](mailto:JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com)

**The Fred and Idah Schultz Preserve** is 120 acres of restored lands on the north side of Port Redwing and the Manatee Viewing Center. After restoration from degraded industrial land, the area is now a mix of salt and freshwater marshes, upland pines and mixed trees, with oyster bars in the mangrove areas. So far 139 species of birds have been reported, both resident and migrants.



Loggerhead Shrike at Schultz, Mic McCarty

A several mile walking trail loops through it from the parking area at the west end of Adamsville Rd south of Gibsonton. There are no facilities, but it is a lovely walk, slightly weedy (promised to be mowed in time for the Blitz.) but very birdy!

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 for this property. [mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org](mailto:mic.mccarty@tampaudubon.org)

We are still working on getting the permits to start our quarterly surveys at the Rock Ponds area as well. If you may be able to help with those, or if you are interested in being added to the Conservation Committee contact list for on-going information on these and other local concerns, contact Doug: [doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org](mailto:doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org)



### NEXT MONTH'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

**Feb 1—General Meeting Program—Morgan Parks, FWC, on Beachnesting Birds**

**Feb 3—Circle B Bar and Lake Gwyn**

**Feb 10—Lettuce Lake Bird Walk**

**Feb 18—Bay Care Ponds and more, Clearwater**

### 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! Jan 11 and Feb 8 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 lefthand column.

### 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 at [roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org](mailto:roger.sheets@tampaudubon.org).

## COMMITTEES UPDATE

### Conservation Committee

We want to thank everyone for your support of our conservation efforts throughout 2017. Whether you participated in Eagle Watch, Colony Watch, our blue-bird project, shorebird stewarding, the Hooked Bird Project, letter writing, emailing and/or speaking at public hearing in support of the bird protection and the environment in general, or any of the various other projects and initiatives Tampa Audubon has been involved with, please know that your efforts have made a tremendous difference! While we haven't won every battle or achieved every goal we might have hoped for, the birds and wildlife in the Tampa Bay area are much better off today because of everything we did accomplish.

In the year ahead, please continue your efforts as strongly as you did in the year just passed. In our current pro-business, pro-development, anti-regulatory environment, the voices of "grass roots" people like us, who believe that our natural systems and iconic local birdlife are an important part of our lives, MUST be heard! We fully expect that more threats to the local environment and to some of our treasured environmental lands and open spaces will come to the surface. It is vital that we stand up to protect them!

### Thanks again for all of your support!

Doug DeNeve, Conservation Chair  
[doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org](mailto:doug.deneve@tampaudubon.org)



### Eagle Watch

Love our eagles? Help keep an eye on them! Eagle Watch could use more volunteers to monitor their nests in the county. It's usually an hour or so, twice a month, and reporting on-line. For more details check out <http://eaglewatchflorida.org/>. Or contact Nan Murrah at [nancy.murrah@tampaudubon.org](mailto:nancy.murrah@tampaudubon.org).

### Hooked Birds/Bird Protection Committee

We ask that you survey docks, boat ramps and fishing piers in your area where anglers may be cleaning fish and throwing their scraps to the birds. We can

### 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. 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](#). 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 your purchases to TAS.



help with educational signage and brochures. Please report to Sandy at [sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org](mailto:sandy.reed@tampaudubon.org)

We also created an educational handout about the FWC statute prohibiting the feeding of Pelicans. You may download and print your own from PDF or we have many available for distribution. Contact Sandy for the pdf.



To All the folks at Tampa Audubon!  
Here's wishing you all a great holiday season with lots of "Chickadee cheer" in the New Year.  
Thank you for your support in so many ways!!! From Citizen science to Advocacy to sharing the joys of the natural world. You guys ROCK!  
XO - Jacqui

Card from Jacqui Sulek, Audubon Florida, to all of you!

**Happy  
New  
Year!**