



The Avocet

Tampa Audubon Society May 2018 Newsletter

www.tampaudubon.org

NO General Meeting in JUNE, JULY, or AUGUST

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.

NO MEETING IN JUNE!

We're in our summer hiatus, so no meeting this month. But...

**JOINT MEETING
JULY 18**



**With the Suncoast Native Plant Society
and the Tampa Bay Group Sierra Club**

Pot luck dinner at **6:15 pm**. Food will be in the kitchen. Tables for dining in kitchen, meeting room and courtyard (weather permitting). Organization sign-in tables, displays and info tables in Conference Ctr.

Speaker—Heather Young

Senior Environmental Planner
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

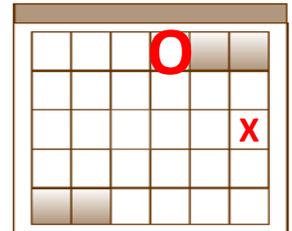
Organizing a climate compact for our region, and setting up a technical advisory committee: How it's going, what's involved!

This can greatly affect our futures, and the future of our birds and wildlife. Come find out how the idea is progressing, and what we might be able to do to affect the outcomes.

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

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.**



June 9 — 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.



Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks
June 9, July 14, July 14
June, July and August walks start at 8 am!



Please come at 4:30 to help set up the rooms if you can!! We will serve food in the kitchen, have tables for eating in kitchen and meeting room, and speakers and display tables in conference center! Help afterwards to clean up will be greatly appreciated too!

Welcome Our New Board of Directors

The members present at the May meeting elected the following as new members of the Board of Directors:

Doug DeNeve, Chair of the Conservation Committee, and field trip leader

Pat Lewis, past president

Lucy Polak, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited

They join our returning members to help plan our directions for the next two years. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to the future of our birds, wildlife and habitat!

Remember, all members are welcome to come to any of the Board meetings or to contact any Board members with suggestions or comments. Please participate! We welcome your ideas!

Other Upcoming Events

June 2, Brooker Creek Birdathon

Birding from 5:30 am to 11:30 am, followed by lunch and prizes.

Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend! Teams of 2-4 people, \$10/person, includes lunch. Teams are encouraged to invite youth birders to join their team and may include them as extra members over the cap of four. Prizes will be awarded! Teams can bird at their own pace at a choice of several areas within the Brooker Creek Preserve boundary, most not open to the public. Maps indicating entry/parking sites, including "hot spot" locations, will be provided to participants. Data collected will be used to help monitor breeding bird populations. **Team leaders must RSVP by April 30, 2018.**

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

For questions or to sign up: Call 727-934-2680

Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

CONTACT LIST FOR TRIP LEADERS and BOARD

Mary Keith, President, trip leader,

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Michelle Hoffman Wrobel, Treasurer

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Sherry Keller, Secretary, trip leader

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Nancy Murrah, 2nd VP of Board, Raptor Rescue, Eagle Watch Nancy.murrah@tampaaudubon.org

Connie Anderson, BoD, trip leader [con-](mailto:connie.anderson@tampaaudubon.org)

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Megan Campbell, BoD Member, trip leader

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Doug DeNeve, BoD member, Conservation Chair, trip leader Doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org

Pat Lewis, BoD member, past President

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Mic McCarty, trip leader BoD Member

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Lucy Polak, BoD Member

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Roger Sheets, Lettuce Lake Volunteer Coordinator

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Rob Yoho rob.yoho@tampaaudubon.org



Swallow-tailed kites.
Hillsborough
River State
Park
Mary Keith

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!!

Hooked or found an injured pelican? FWC's new web-based tool can help

The FWC's Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative has launched a **Seabird Rehabilitators and Transporters** tool to help someone with an injured pelican or other seabird quickly find a wildlife rehabber close to their location.



The new web-based application is optimized for smartphones and allows boaters, anglers and others to find the nearest seabird rehabilitator to care for an injured bird or locate an authorized transporter to take the bird to a rehabilitator.

Anyone with a smartphone, computer or tablet can access this web-based map application by clicking on <https://ocean.floridamarine.org/SeabirdRehabilitators/>.

Users can either allow the application to access their location or pinpoint a location on the map and select the radius (0-50 miles) they would like to search. Then they can call the nearest rehabber or get directions with a single click.

This is part of the agency's **Don't Cut the Line** campaign, which shows people how to rescue a hooked pelican or other seabird. More information on the how to safely handle and unhook a bird, or how to find and use the app, is at MyFWC.com/Unhook.

THE PERILS OF FEEDING WILDLIFE IT IS ILLEGAL!!!

(This information is provided by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.)

Feeding some species of wildlife in Florida is illegal. These species include pelicans, Sandhill cranes, black bears, alligators, crocodiles, foxes, raccoons, and bald eagles.

Direct Feeding includes: intentionally feeding or leaving out food, such as feeding stations and bird feeders.

Indirect Feeding: Garbage or pet food not intended for wildlife.

Feeding can cause:

- * Poor nutrition. Most food people feed wildlife is not healthy for them, including bread.
- * Overcrowding, which can lead to spread of dis-

eases such as Duck Plague, Rabies, Botulism, Canine Distemper and more.

- * Unnatural behavior and public nuisance issues, such as dependence on people, harassment, injuries and death, aggression.
- * Pollution, by accumulation of fecal matter, excess nutrients, water quality issues, and noise.
- * Delayed migration.
- * Encouragement of exotic species.

Suggestions:

- ◇ FWC suggests that we do not feed wildlife. Wildlife mortality increases with human intervention.
- ◇ Secure trash, pet food and other attractants.
- ◇ Plant natives and increase cover to naturally attract native wildlife species.
- ◇ Provide shelter and nesting habitats like snags (dead trees).

Thanks to FWC! www.myfwc.com

FEEDING RESPONSIBLY

If you do feed birds, do so responsibly!
DO NOT FEED SANDHILL CRANES or PELICANS!

Responsible feeding includes:

- ⇒ Use the right **foods**. Put out a variety of seeds or suet intended for birds, not bread, plain corn or table scraps.
- ⇒ Keep feeders and bird baths **clean!** Dirty feeders and baths spread diseases such as finch eye disease, salmonellosis and more. Wash at least once a month, disinfect with diluted bleach, rinse and allow to dry.
- ⇒ **Discard** feed that gets wet, moldy, mildewed.
- ⇒ Keep the areas under your feeders clean. Clean up spilled feed under feeders to not attract rodents, raccoons, roaches or more.
- ⇒ **Locate** feeders so that cats cannot prey on the birds, at least 8-10 ft from bushes where cats can hide. Do have bushes or other cover near enough that birds can escape hawks.
- ⇒ **Protect** birds from windows. Use decals intended to make glass visible to birds, tapes, screens or other methods. Go to <https://abcbirds.org/program/glass-collisions/bird-friendly-window-solutions/> for more information.