

The Avocet

# Tampa Audubon Society March 2018 Newsletter

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



General Meeting Thursday, **March 1, 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.

## Saltmarsh Habitats and Sparrows in Tampa Bay

Speaker: **Lauren Deaner**



Saltmarsh Sparrow, from AllAboutBirds.org

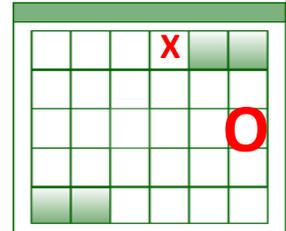
Salt marsh habitats dominated by smooth cordgrass are rare in the Tampa Bay region and likely represent the remnant patches of once extensive marshes that were extant during the 19th and 20th centuries. Saltmarsh and Nelson's sparrows are both biological indicators of salt marsh habitats, but Saltmarsh Sparrows are habitat specific and occur strictly on coastal marsh habitats. Nelson's Sparrows from populations in this study breed in freshwater marsh habitats within the interior of the country, but winter along the southern coastal marshes. Lauren studied these two species on Shell Key Preserve to understand how marsh dependent species utilize these remnant patches of saltmarsh in their winter to gain insight to better provide protections for species populations in decline.

**Lauren Deaner** has degrees from Univ of Delaware and Georgia Southern Univ. She has studied Florida Scrub-Jays and Burrowing Owls, Wilson's Plovers on Cumberland Island National Seashore, and worked in environmental consulting in the Tampa area. Her main focus is the conservation of listed species.

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.**



**Mar 3— Brandon Birds** at Twin Lakes 8:30 am - Meet in parking lot at pool area at west end of Lake Michaela, in Twin Lakes subdivision at the east end of Bloomingdale Ave. Leader is Sandy.

**Mar 10 — 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.

**Sat 3/17 Grape Hammock Airboat Ride – Lake Kissimmee 9 am, \$40 ONLY 5 SPACES LEFT!** Meet at Grape Hammock at 9 am. Two shifts for airboat or walk the hammock. Snail kites, eagles, caracara and more. Bring lunch to eat at local lakeside park. Contact Mary to **register**, or for more info, carpool arrangements, directions.

**Sat 3/24 Eagle Watch, 8 am** Meet at Target on Bloomingdale at 301 to drive to local eagle nests. Sure to find eaglets! Leader Nancy Murrah.



MacDill eaglets, Sandy Reed

## Lettuce Lake Beginning Birder Walks

Apr 14, May 12, June 9



### NEXT MONTH'S TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

April 4, 5, 6—Cape Coral hotspots with local leaders, then Babcock Webb for red cockaded woodpeckers, nuthatches and more.

April 14—Lettuce Lake Beginners' Walk

April 21—Cockroach Bay

April 28—Ft DeSoto



### WANT TO HELP EVEN MORE?

#### HELP AT SPRING FLING

**March 24th Little Manatee River SP.** TAS will have an information table there, and some activities for children. 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.

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! Feb 8 and March 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 left-hand column at [www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org).

### Lettuce Lake Walk Leaders

Our **Beginning Bird Walks at Lettuce Lake** on the 2nd Saturdays are becoming so popular we'd like

some more leaders! That way if more than 20 people show up we can split into 2 groups. We had 77 in February! Please tell Mary if you'd be willing to co-lead, or just come to the walks to practice. Remember, the more people see and recognize what's out there, the more likely they are to support the parks, protect the birds and more! Help them see!

### Goodbye, Golden Aster Scrub-Jays

The 3 Florida Scrub-Jays at Golden Aster have been or shortly will be trapped and moved to Duette Preserve in Manatee County. This decision was made with the best intentions for the birds. At Golden Aster there were not enough for a functional colony, (and they were all males), and not enough land to give them the space they'd need. So with the help of Quest Ecology and the full support of Audubon Jay-Watch and TAS, 'our' birds are going to find new friends and family, increase the genetic diversity and hopefully continue the species in a much better habitat.



### CONTACT LIST FOR TRIP LEADERS and BOARD

**Mary Keith**, Pres. [Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Mary.keith@tampaaudubon.org)

**Sandy Reed**, VP. [Sandy.reed@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Sandy.reed@tampaaudubon.org)

**Michelle Hoffman Wrobel**, Treasurer

[michelle.hoffman.wrobel@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:michelle.hoffman.wrobel@tampaaudubon.org)

**Sherry Keller**, Secretary, trip leader

[sherry.keller@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:sherry.keller@tampaaudubon.org)

**Megan Campbell**, trip leader, BoD Member

[Megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Megan.campbell@tampaaudubon.org)

**Doug DeNeve**, Conservation Chair, trip leader

[Doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Doug.deneve@tampaaudubon.org)

**Roger Sheets**, Lettuce Lake Volunteer Coordinator

[roger.sheets@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:roger.sheets@tampaaudubon.org)

**Mic McCarty**, trip leader BoD Member

[Mic.mccarty@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Mic.mccarty@tampaaudubon.org)

**Nancy Murrah**, 2nd VP of Board, Raptor Rescue, Eagle Watch

[Nancy.murrah@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:Nancy.murrah@tampaaudubon.org)

**Pam Deneve** [pam.deneve@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:pam.deneve@tampaaudubon.org)

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

[nie.anderson@tampaaudubon.org](mailto:nie.anderson@tampaaudubon.org)

**Rob Yoho** [rob.yoho@tampaaudubon.org](mailto: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. Your sponsorship money provides funding for all bluebird trail maintenance, spy-cam equipment, and bluebird brochure printing costs.



To become a sponsor, follow the directions on the sponsorship form ([click here](#)), or find the form online at [tampaudubon.org](http://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](mailto:Mary.miller@tampaudubon.org)

### More Ways to Help the Birds!

**Play board games for the environment?** Dr. Mark Hafen, USF, is looking for people to help test board games for simulating the effects of sea level rise and coastal flooding, and how to engage all parts of our community to discuss responses to them.

Dates and times will be determined, but if you'd be interested please email Mary. We might make it a pizza night! (or afternoon, if that works better.)

### Colony Watch, March-June



The birds are getting ready, are you? They need some volunteers to help keep an eye on their nesting colonies. King's Point, Odessa and it seems the Harley colony are still needing a guardian angel.

You only need to check the colony a couple times a month and send a short report of how many pairs, nests, nestlings you can see, or if there is some disturbance, report that. If interested, please contact Ann Paul or Mark Rachal at the Coastal Islands Sanctuary office. Thank you!! [Apaul@audubon.org](mailto:Apaul@audubon.org), or [mrachal@audubon.org](mailto:mrachal@audubon.org).

### April Program

Michael Brothers, Marine Science Center,  
Ponce Inlet  
**Pelagic Birding off Florida's Coast**

### Remember Membership Renewals



**If you haven't renewed in some time, you're probably due!** Renew your Audubon membership through TAS so 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.