



www.santafeaudubon.org and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



COMING IN FEBRUARY

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

6:45 PM at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall
204 SR 26, downtown Melrose

“BIRDS OF COSTA RICA”

Speaker

WILLIAM J. (Bill) COOPER

The videos for my program, *Birds Of Costa Rica*, were taken at Pierella Ecological Garden located in Horquetas de Sarapiquí. The Garden is, north east of San Jose, located in the coastal region of Costa Rica. The Garden, really a butterfly farm, was started in 1995 by William Camacho after a friend mentioned to him that you can make a living raising butterflies. From meager beginnings of a fenced-in area 10 meters by 10 meters he started raising the Blue Morphos (*Morpho peleides*) and as he sold them to the Costa Rican Entomological Supply, he bought more land. Now the Garden is 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of secondary growth rainforest. It is a biologically diverse tree island near a little town.

The video starts out at the “dining room” of Pierella then we move to the rainforest to watch a Jacobin Hummingbird in “her” nest. The show is rounded out by the dance of the White-Collared Manakin.

Bill Cooper

You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs.

All are welcome!

THE SAFETY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OF UPMOST IMPORTANCE, AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO WEAR A MASK.

The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series and Field Trips may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Cancellation notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our website and Facebook page.

A complete listing of future Programs, Field Trips and Activities is on page 4

FIELD TRIP

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com**

When you make your reservation, please include your email and phone numbers(s) and please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.

Saturday, February 11

CONES DIKE at Paynes Prairie

Discover Gainesville's own “Big Sky” on a walk out into Paynes Prairie on the Cones Dike Trail, where we will hike up to 3 miles through the largest prairie in North Florida.

Of all of the trails at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, Cones Dike is the one where you are most likely to see the herds of wild horses and bison that call the prairie home, while taking in a panorama from rim to rim. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-3 miles

PARKING FEE: \$6 PER VEHICLE

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

contact Sallie Carlock santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

To caravan from Melrose on the west side of
Heritage Park at **7:30 AM**

or Paynes Prairie Visitors Center Parking Lot at **8:15 AM**
100 Savannah Blvd, Micanopy, FL

Saturday, February 25

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK for waterfowl & more

Join us for a walk at this man-made wetland where the birds are accustomed to humans. There are often opportunities for close-up looks and great photographs. This time of year, we may see wintering ducks along with local favorites.

Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles

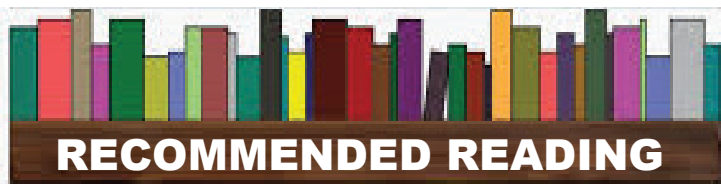
PARKING FEE: \$5 PER VEHICLE

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

contact Sallie Carlock santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

To caravan from Melrose on the west side of
Heritage Park at **7:30 AM**

or Sweetwater Wetlands Park at **8:10 AM**
325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville



by Jacqueline Williamson

EVELYN THE ADVENTUROUS ENTOMOLOGIST

The True Story Of A World-Traveling Bug Hunter

by Christine Evans



An inspirational story about a real life entomologist overcoming obstacles to follow her dream. Gorgeously illustrated with a great message, it's a must read for any child who is interested in nature and for parents who want to encourage their budding naturalist.

WANTED

NATURE PHOTOS

for March 2023

Photography Show

Please select 10 of your best nature photos and a photo of yourself and give to Laura Berkelman

“Flash Drive” preferred & will be returned **before March 1, 2023**

or email lberkelman@windstream.net

The Great Backyard Bird Count



February 17 through 20, 2023

ABOUT THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)

GBBC's Project Goal

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

What's Changed?

In 2020 we designed a new website to help make your 4-day count easy, clear, and inspiring! In an effort to spread the love of birdwatching even further, we've moved away from using the Charley Harper image (pictured above). Instead, we use pictures of birds and people from around the world participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. No matter what corner of the world you live in or visit, we want to share in your joy of birdwatching.

Our History

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen-science project (also referred to as community science) to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada. In 2013, we became a global project when we began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project.

To find out all about the 2023 Great Backyard Bird Count and how to participate click on this link: <https://www.birdcount.org>

Melrose Area Christmas Bird Count • December 15, 2022

by Laura Berkelman, CBC Complier

The 33rd annual Christmas Bird Count of the Melrose Circle was NOT rained out. On December 15, 2022 the 61 participants fanned out across our assigned 15-mile diameter circle centered at the intersection of SR 100 and CR 219. It extends from Florahome to Earleton and Melrose Landing to Camp Blanding and Gold Head State Park. Eighteen teams of volunteers in cars, on foot and in boats spent the day surveying the birds in as many portions of this big circle as we could cover.

Exciting finds this year included a virtual cloud of American Robins with an estimated flock size of 100,000 individuals, the rare Field Sparrow and very late-season Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Especially disappointing was the fact that no one spotted a Green Heron.

The final species count of 113 beat the average, and tied for eighth place in the 33-year history of the local count, but dropped from last year's historic high of 132 species. However, thanks to those Robins we did set a record for the highest number of individual birds: While 122,718 individual birds were recorded by all teams (surpassing the previous high count of 28,842 set in 2021) only 112,556 individuals will be reported (an explanation is included below.)

Although we never know if a decline in the species count is due to an overall decline in species populations or just the conditions of a particular survey – the weather, the number and skill level of the participants - we do know that the rain reduced the effective hours of people in the field this year.

A word more about how reporting of counted individuals works. Every one of the 18 reporting teams spotted American Robins. In fact, they recorded 10,201 robins in addition to that giant cloud. Robins seemed to be everywhere! And it's unusual for 100% of the teams to see any one species. (The next closest was 16 teams reporting Northern Cardinals.) But since counts of large fast-moving groups are necessarily estimates and since some birds almost certainly cross from one territory to another, data reported to National Audubon and Cornell University is rounded to the nearest level of magnitude. In other words, 110,201 American Robins are reported as 100,000. 3,016 Ring-billed Gulls are reported as 3,000 and so on.

Finally, Santa Fe Audubon Society would like to thank all of the many private property owners who allow us to visit their properties to conduct this annual survey.



Sunrise over Lake Serena



One of our dedicated volunteers



Pine Warbler



Northern
Cardinal



Gulls and
CBC Team on
Lake Santa Fe



Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park



Wild
Turkeys



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

MARCH 14, 2023

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Conservationist of the Year
Photography Show & Election of Officers

APRIL 11, 2023

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Speaker

DR. ABBY POWELL

“Masters of Migration:
Amazing Shorebird Journeys”

MAY 9, 2023

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Speaker

CYNTHIA BARNETT

“The Sound of the Sea:
Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans”



FLORIDA WILDLIFE EXTENSION Wildlife Happenings

Click on the link below to check out the
“Wildlife Happenings” in our area.

https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/

FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY

(MARCH DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

BIRD BANDING

at Prairie Creek

APRIL 2023

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**GUANA TOLOMATO MATANZAS
NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

BOLEN BLUFF

at Paynes Prairie for Spring migration

MAY 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK
for Bobolinks & more

SATURDAY, MAY 27

ANASTASIA STATE PARK
for Shore Birds

FIELD TRIP DIFFICULTY CHART

- 0** - Impaired mobility has been considered for this trip.
The SFAS Contact has details.
- 1** - Trip within easy access to the vehicle and/or
level terrain; 1 mile or less.
- 2** - May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles.
- 3** - May involve elevation change, uneven terrain,
and/or be greater than 2 miles.

The safety and well-being of our participants is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Field Trips may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to weather concerns.

Postponement or cancellation notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our website and Facebook page.

PLEASE SEE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Alachua Audubon Society Presents

2023 Backyard Birding Tour



TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

4212 NW 16TH BLVD, GAINESVILLE, FL 32605

**Saturday
February 18th
9AM - 3PM**

CASH/CHECK **\$12.00**

CREDIT CARD **\$15.00**

About the Tour

- Self-guided tour through 6 of Gainesville's premier backyard birding habitats
- Learn how to attract birds to your yard with different foods, water features, and plants
- See brightly colored winter visitors like Baltimore Orioles, American Goldfinches, and many more

Please contact Christina at 585-507-1567 with any questions

**This Conference will also be available on ZOOM
FOR ZOOM INFORMATION PLEASE
THE INFORMATION BELOW**

**LEARN TO ENHANCE YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS
4TH TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



**JANUARY 21, 2023
AT THE EMERSON CENTER**

**1590 27TH AVENUE
VERO BEACH, FL 32960**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



SPONSORS

Have your name or business listed here

\$1,500

- Anonymous
- Windsor Properties

\$1,000

- Dr. Albert & Ginny Alley
- Dr. Brenda Baker & Dr. Andy Liu
- Kay Gibson

\$500

- Clean Water Coalition
- Dr. Henry & Betsy Fischer
- Wayne Mills, ORCA Board Chair
- Native Butterfly Flowers Nursery
- Dr. Richard Sakai
- Dr. Edie Widder, CEO, ORCA Board

\$250

- Anonymous
- Conradina Chapter, FNPS
- Environmental Learning Center
- Friends of St. Sebastian River
- Garden Club of Indian River County
- Indian River Land Trust
- Ralph Johansen
- Marine Resources Council
- Nancy's Nursery
- Pelican Island Conservation Society
- Dr. Hadi Shalhoub, Advance Vascular
- St. Lucie Audubon Society
- JoAnn Stillman
- Turtle Coast Chapter, Sierra Club

8:00AM	Online Registration - PelicansIslandAudubon.org - Tickets \$25 & includes box lunch; \$35 after Jan. 18 or attend on Zoom for \$25. Native plants on sale from native plant nurseries.
9:00-9:50	Dr. Craig N. Huegel , Director University of South Florida Botanical Garden, <i>The Nature of Plants, How Plants Work</i>
10:00-10:50	Dr. John W. Fitzpatrick , Professor and Emeritus Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, <i>Local Ups and Downs in Bird Populations: Recent Revelations from Deep Analysis of 'eBird' Citizen-Science Data</i>
10:50-11:20	Break
11:20-12:10PM	Dr. Grant Gilmore , President and Chief Scientist, Estuarine, Coastal and Ocean Science. Inc., <i>Your Lawn Grass versus Seagrass</i>
12:10-1:00	Lunch with Box Lunches included in the \$25 admission ticket for those attending in person.
1:00-1:50	Sean Patton , Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting, Sarasota, FL, <i>Pond-side Living with Native Plants, Native Fish, for a Native Florida</i>
2:00-2:50	Dr. Larry Reeves , Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Vero Beach, <i>The biodiversity crisis and the importance of insects</i>
2:50-3:20	Break
3:20-4:10	Timothee Sallin , Co-CEO of IMG Enterprises, a diversified, family owned Florida agri-business, <i>How Do We Mainstream Sustainable Landscapes in FL?: Working with Master Planned Community Developers, Home Builders, Landscape Architects and Regulators to Shift from Conventional Landscapes to Sustainable Landscapes</i>
4:10-4:30	Dr. Richard Baker - Discussion and Summary

LEARN MORE ABOUT PELICAN ISLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

WWW.PELICANISLANDAUDUBON.ORG

PHONE: 772-567-3520

EMAIL: PIAUDUBON@YAHOO.COM