



4 The Birds

FAS Mission Statement: "connecting and educating people about birds and other wildlife in their habitats and taking a leadership role in preservation and restoration of diverse eco-systems"

Contact us at flagleraudubon@gmail.com Visit www.flaglerlibraryfriend.com/audubon/audubon1.htm

A Quarterly Newsletter

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MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Our FAS meetings are held at Flagler Hospital at 6:30 PM, come and learn more about birds and our environment.

February 2 ---- Audubon expert, Monique Borboen-Abrams, will tell us about waders and shorebirds. This will be a great refresher course for our shorebird survey this month.

NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, this meeting will be held at the City of Palm Coast Community Center - 306 Palm Coast Parkway.

After the meeting, if people are interested, we can take the Magnolia Trail through St. Joe Walkway/Linear Park for an OWL PROWL. There is a small outdoor seating area off of the trail where interested people can sit and listen. Barred and Great horned owls have been seen in the area.

March 1 ---- We'll learn about Right Whales from a representative of the Florida Wildlife Commission.

April 5 ---- Palm Coast's environmentalist, Denise Bevins will discuss Graham Swamp's role in our lives. This will make our April 14th bird walk even more special.

May 3 ---- John Hankenson will give us an update on the BP Gulf oil spill disaster. No, the impacts have not gone away and may not in our lifetime.



Birding Classes

We are planning to conduct bird classes again this season. Neil Davies and Joe Dziak will survey member interest and skill level to best plan an experience that will meet participants' needs.

The sessions will be run in the Marineland Audubon Center at 9601 Oceanshore Blvd.



Tee Shirts

Have your Flagler Audubon Tee shirts seen better days? We have a new selection of colors in a cotton blend fabric that you'll love, especially priced at only \$12.00. We'll have them for sale at our meetings and special events.

Local Bird Walks

These are local trips are held the 2nd Saturday of the month and start at 8:00 AM at the locations listed.

January 14 ---- We take advantage of Washington Oaks State Park to find migrating warblers.

February ---- Date TBD, we'll meet at the Flagler pier and conduct our annual shorebird survey.

March 10 ---- We'll go to Haw Creek, a spot not visited often enough, with great natural beauty and wildlife.

April 14 ---- We are going to go "off the beaten path" and explore less traveled sections of Graham Swamp with a guide.

May 12 ---- We close out our birding year with a picnic added to the monthly walk. The location will be announced during the year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Are you accustomed to writing 2012 yet? Neither am I. As your New Year's resolution, you may want to consider the many ways to become involved with Flagler Audubon Society. For example, Flagler County has requested our input on requesting the State to designate more "Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trails" throughout the County. Two areas they need documented bird species include Dead Lake and River to Sea Preserve. There are also still unfilled Flagler Audubon Society Board Member positions, so this is a good time to get involved to further connect people with birds and wildlife in their habitat. Let me know if you are interested!

Sara Lockhart



Field Trips

The following is a listing of our exciting 2011-2012 field trips planned for this year. We'll meet to arrange shared rides at the Winn-Dixie parking lot on Rt. 100 at the intersection of Old Kings Road in time to depart at 8AM sharp. Don't forget to check our website for more information: www.flaglerlibraryfriend.com/audubon/audubon1.htm

January 21st 2012

--- Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, no need to say how great this will be.

Leave Flagler County Fri -- 2/17 arrive Lee County that p.m.
Accommodations:
Casa Loma Motel,
3608 Del Prado S.
Cape Coral, FL
33904
Tel 877-227-2566

Standard room rate \$79.00
Waterfront room \$89.00

Members should call direct and book as a Flagler Audubon member to secure rates. Ding Darling NWR Guided Tour to be held on Sat. 2/18 beginning in a.m. You can opt to stay an extra night to include a side trip to Corkscrew Swamp. Dining options will be made by attendees.



March 17th

Another sure winner, we go to Brevard County and visit the Viera Wetlands.

April 28th

Becoming an annual event, we're going on a boat trip. This time to Lake Monroe in Sanford.

February 17-19th

Pack your bags, we're on an overnight excursion to Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and perhaps Cork Screw Swamp.

CONGRATULATIONS



Flagler Audubon spotted 101 species (a total of 15,332 birds, our highest yet) on our 2011 Christmas Bird Count:

2008 95 species, 5,553 birds

2009 104 species, 15,201 birds

2010 102 species, 8,892 birds

2011 101 species, 15,332 birds

If you were not able to help this year, think about getting involved next year. This was the 112th year that Audubon held this survey and it is believed to be the longest running wildlife survey conducted. The cumulative data can help protect our feathered friends.

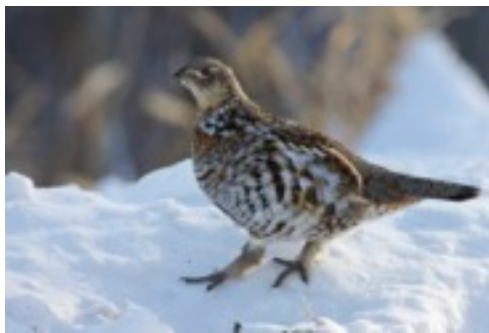
For an historical perspective on migratory bird protection, click on this email link to get a copy: walter.mahler@gmail.com

Local Events

Flagler Audubon participates in community events and we have one scheduled:

1. Earth Day, April 21 & 22 at Washington Oaks State Park.
2. Remember to check our website for more information:

www.flaglerlibraryfriend.com/audubon/audubon1.htm



Cavity Nesters

More than 25 bird species in Florida require cavities as nesting sites, and you can bring those birds to your yard by building or buying birdhouses that mimic natural cavities. Birdhouses can be set out at any time of year, but making them available just before the major nesting season will enhance their use. The major nesting season is March to June so try to have your birdhouses set up by January or February. Natural cavities do not have perches, so do not attach perches on any houses. A nail or knife can be used to scratch the outside surface below the entrance if smooth boards are used. Cavity-nesters perch on vertical roughened surfaces such as bark. Houses built for wrens can be suspended under an eave or a tree limb. All other houses should be firmly attached to a post, tree, or building. A hinged door or other means for easily checking and cleaning out the house is a good idea. Birds will do their own cleaning as they do in natural cavities, but your help will increase use. Read more about cavity-nesting birds in Florida and their habitats in ["Helping Cavity-Nesters in Florida."](#)

Surviving Cold

Where do the birds go for protection during severe weather? They do it in a variety of ways, depending on the species and the bird's natural habitat. Bluebirds, for example, find protection against the cold and storms by communal roosting, often in a bird house. This behavior shares warmth, and keeps the birds out of the wind, rain and snow. Other cavity nesters, such as chickadees, titmice and woodpeckers, also seek out old nesting sites in dead trees or bird houses in which to roost or find protection during a storm. Nuthatches may also seek the same kind of shelter against the cold.

Flocks of rosy finches often roost in an outcropping of rock where they can get out of the cold wind. Bobwhite make a circle of the covey, huddled side-by-side, with heads facing out. This allows them to share body heat, while being ready to escape in all directions, should they be attacked. Ruffed grouse take a different tactic. They dive into a snow bank, and may stay there for several days until the storm passes. Many other birds retreat to dense evergreen thickets where they are protected from the elements for the duration of the storm.

Avian Fuel

This is about the time of the year when most people feed birds in their backyards; feeding birds throughout the year has many rewards. If there is one kind of seed that is most attractive to the greatest number of backyard birds, it would be sunflower in any form. Sunflower seeds are relished by finches, grosbeaks, cardinals, jays, and even some species of woodpeckers. The two most popular forms of sunflower seeds for birds are the black oil sunflower seed, which is in the shell, and the hulled (medium cracked) sunflower seed, which is out of the shell. Other popular seeds for finches, include niger (thistle), a tiny black seed that is offered in a tube feeder with tiny port holes. Safflower seeds are a favorite among cardinals, doves, and house finches. And the various wild bird seed mixes are eaten by sparrows, doves, juncos, and blackbirds. Most insect eaters will also enjoy a good suet cake.