

THE AUDUBON OBSERVER

Spring 2015 Edition



A publication of
Duval Audubon Society

Serving Clay, Duval and Nassau counties since 1939

Cover Photo Credit: C. Bailey

Spring Programs

General Program Information

Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are held at:
Swaim Memorial United Methodist Church
1620 Naldo Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207

IF YOU PLANT IT, BIRDS WILL COME

Monday March 16 @ 7:30PM

Speaker: Dave Korlacki, The Plant Man

Dave the Plant Man, a Garden Specialist, will help turn your thumb green while introducing you to a wide range of native and sub-tropical plants. These plants not only thrive here in our extreme North Florida climate, they'll bring many types of birds and butterflies to your own backyard garden.

Dave will have plants on display to give a hands-on demonstration of the best growing techniques as well as design advice for fitting these plants into your landscape.

PELAGIC BIRDS OF FLORIDA'S NORTHEAST COAST

Monday April 20 @ 7:30PM

Speaker: Michael Brothers, Director of Marine Science Center

Black-capped Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Bulwer's Petrel, Manx Shearwater – these are names that set a birder's heart racing in Florida. The pelagic birds are one of the last frontiers of our understanding of Florida's avifauna. These great travelers of the open ocean pass by our shores largely unseen. Systematic studies of Florida's oceanic birdlife are very few.

This program offers an introduction to this challenging group of birds as we continue to try to unravel the dynamics of the occurrence of these birds and their relationship to the oceanic environments. studying the ecology and life history at J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge since 2012.

BIRDS AND BREAKFAST ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday May 9

Huguenot Memorial Park @8AM for breakfast and brief meeting; 9AM for birding

Come out and celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with us! We will meet at one of the shelters. Ask the attendant at the entrance for the location. Bring a breakfast dish to share. Coffee will be provided. Entrance fee per car is \$4.00. Early bird entry prior to 8am is \$3 using the kiosk - cash (exact bills only) or Visa/Mastercard.

Birding in a Changing World

by Carolyn Antman

Every time I go outside and spend a little time, whether it's the backyard, the nearby park, or the beach, I fall in love with nature all over again: the colors, the feel and smell of the air, the beauty and diversity. I love it. I want to stay outside forever. I want my children, and their children and the children after that to have what I have. That is why I want to tell you about what is happening in our changing world.

We have all heard that the global climate is changing. Virtually all scientists agree on this. Data from temperature and atmospheric records, ice core records and other evidence show that rising CO₂ levels in the atmosphere are driving this change. CO₂ and methane and other gasses are called greenhouse gases because they create a layer in the atmosphere that traps heat. As we burn more and more fossil fuels (e.g. coal, natural gas and oil), CO₂ becomes trapped in the atmosphere – for 100s of years. So the more CO₂ we emit, the hotter things get. Annually, we are already 1.6 degrees Celsius hotter on average than we were 150 years ago.

The ocean levels are rising, and there is an increased frequency and intensity of some extreme weather conditions such as heat waves and heavy rainstorms. Climate change means we will see more record high temperatures than lows and more extreme swings between the two. Heat

waves will last longer, arctic blasts will come out of nowhere, thundershowers will become more intense. We know that over the next decades these changes will continue and it will affect many facets of life. Bird behavior is one of them.

Birds are very sensitive creatures. Each species has adapted to its own specific environment: a combination of temperatures, precipitation, humidity, flora and food sources. They aren't like us – they can't put on a jacket or turn on the air-conditioning or import food from around the world. They are bound by thousands of years of established behaviors that tell them what to eat, where and when to migrate and where and when to breed. Many don't adapt to changes very well.

Climatologists have been recording many climate parameters for a long time, and Audubon has been counting birds a long time. Put the two together and you get a pretty good idea of what the climate will be in the future and where the birds will try to be. Climate Data from the U. S. National Climatic Data Center, and bird data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (from the U. S. Geological Survey) and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count were used to study 588 species of birds in the United States and Canada to determine what climate each species needs to survive and where that climate will exist at certain points in the future.



Credit: Creative Commons

What does the future look like for your favorite bird?

Go to the website climate.audubon.org to find out. If your favorite bird is the American Crow, you are in luck! This bird is on the “climate stable” list. However, if you like the Boat-tailed Grackle, you will be shocked. You know the Boat-tailed Grackle. He’s the one at your picnic table trying to steal your chips. Look at the Audubon maps. You’ll see that he stands to lose 93% of his summer range by 2080 and 46 % of his winter range. This bird is endangered. Nearly all of its habitat is in Florida and it may disappear by 2080!

And this is just the climate changes. Did you know that 1000 people move to Florida EVERY DAY? What happens to this bird’s habitat when we consider development and sea level rise?

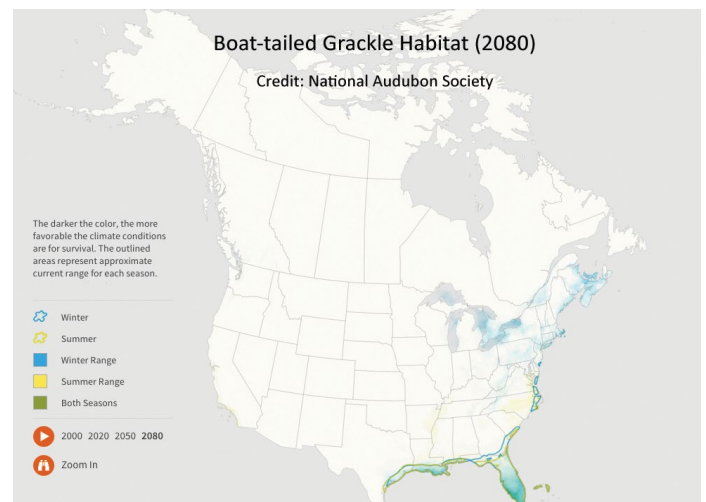
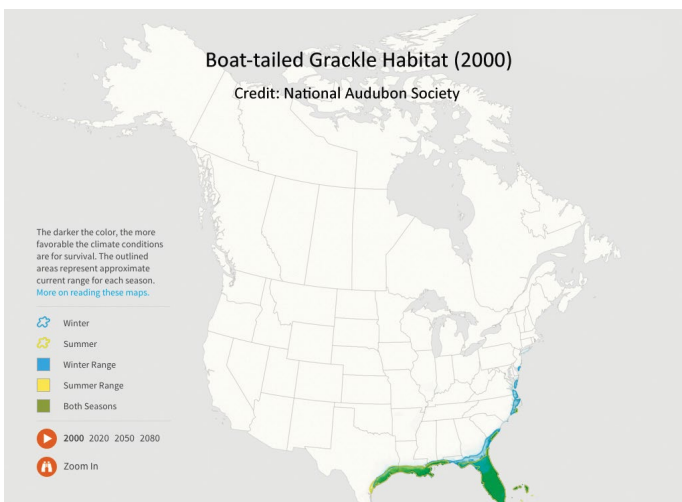
It’s up to us to help these birds and the 314 species that Audubon lists as climate threatened or endangered. What can we do?

First, learn all you can by going to the Audubon websites, both National and Audubon Florida fl.audubon.org. Then:

- Reconsider your yard - plant native, reduce fertilizers and pesticides;
- Support and use our park system - national, state and local;
- Look at your carbon footprint - conserve everywhere you can.



Credit: C. Wainwright



What is Duval Audubon Society Doing for Our Birds?

Our Crosby Sanctuary in Clay County is over 500 acres of mixed uplands and wetlands, where we've seen over 100 species of birds. We also have other wildlife including deer, otters, beavers, snakes and alligators. We keep this land in conservation and try to use "best management" practices in its maintenance.

Every year Duval Audubon participates in the Christmas Bird Count. We had 47 people in the field on December 27, 2014. Some of these people have participated for over thirty years. We were the highest in the state in species and I think we will tie or be the highest again this year with 165 species seen.

This year we started a CBC4Kids. We hope this program will encourage kids to appreciate the natural environment and make them active in its protection.

The Audubon Adventures program brings conservation to the classroom.

Our Eagle Watch program has also grown this year. We now have 28 volunteers working in the Duval area locating and monitoring eagle nests. In fact, right now, eggs are being laid and some have even hatched! We cover 4 counties: Nassau, Clay, Duval and St. Johns and are currently watching 27 nests.

Our programs and field trips bring people closer to nature and help them realize what they have to protect. We are offering 37 guided field trips this year.

It's time to get involved in conservation. Participate in our programs and participate at your home. As David Yarnold, CEO of National Audubon, puts it "To birds, you are what hope looks like".

For more information see our website: <http://duvalaudubon.org>



Credit: J. Jeffas



Credit: C. Bailey

Field Trips

General Field Trip Information

Start Time: All field trips start at 8AM unless otherwise stated.

Carpooling and Directions: Those interested in carpooling to our more distant field trips should check out our Meetup.com page for like-minded adventurers. Detailed directions and full descriptions can also be found on Meetup.com as well as on our website: <http://www.meetup.com/Duval-Audubon-Society/>

What to Bring: Always dress for the weather, and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring water, binoculars, camera, insect repellent, a snack, and a friend.

Saturday, March 14, 2015 @8:30 AM

Leader: Denise Jump

Meeting Place: Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m. St Augustine Alligator Farm is located at 999 Anastasia Blvd, St Augustine, FL

Cost: Rates are \$21.95 for adults; \$10.95 for children under 11.

Bring your camera to this one! Spring is THE time to see these birds in the full breeding plumage! Thanks to the resident alligators, wading birds like Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Wood Stork and Tricolored Heron make the Alligator Farm their nesting site. The wooden walkway allows for incredibly intimate views of Florida's magnificent wading birds on their nests.

Saturday, March 21, 2015: Walter Jones Historical Park

Leader: Judy Jeffas 904-612-7036

Meeting Place: Walter Jones Historical Park is located at 1194 Mandarin Road, Jacksonville. The park boasts ancient live oak trees draped with Spanish moss and sits on the edge of the St. Johns River. Step into the 10-acre Walter Jones Historical Park and experience the essence of post-Civil War Mandarin in Jacksonville, FL. Walter Jones, an immigrant from England, purchased this farm in about 1902 from the estate of its original owner, William W. Webb. Jones became postmaster of Mandarin and located the post office in his general store, which he and his descendants operated from 1911 to 1964. The store, which has been converted into a museum, is about a mile past the park on Mandarin Road. The city of Jacksonville purchased the property in 1994.

Sunday, March 22, 2015 8:30AM

Jacksonville Arboretum

Leader: Inez Whipple (484-769-3816)

Meeting Place: Jacksonville Arboretum is located at 1445 Millcoie Road, Jacksonville

We'll explore some new trails of this 120-acre nature preserve in urban Jacksonville, just off Monument Road, looking for resident birds; including Prothonotary Warbler, Great-crested Flycatcher, Black-and-White warbler, and White and Red-eyed Vireos.

Come prepared for easy to moderate trails (sturdy shoes or sneakers) that could be muddy if there has been recent rains. Bring binoculars (there are a few pairs to borrow if you don't own your own), a hat, snack, and your best eyes and ears as we explore this under-birded area.

Saturday, March 28: Crosby Saturday

Leader: Pete Johnson

Meeting Place: Crosby Sanctuary is located at 427 Aquarius Concourse, Orange Park Duval Audubon is working to provide more opportunities for our members and the public to visit and help with projects at the Crosby Sanctuary. Regular work days/field trips are scheduled on the fourth Saturday of the month throughout the 2014/2015 season.

Friday, April 3 @ 7:00 PM to Sunday, April 5 @10:00 AM: Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary & Koreshan State Historical Site

Leader: Judy Jeffas at 904-612-7036 to RSVP and more information

Meeting Place: TBA

This is the inaugural year of our revolving state park weekends. For our first weekend, we have chosen Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and camping at Koreshan State Historic Site. Don't have a camper, check out: rvshare.com. Don't want to camp? There are plenty of hotels nearby.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary: Visitors to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary find a gentle, pristine wilderness that dates back more than 500 years. A 2.25-mile boardwalk meanders through pine flatwoods, wet prairie, around a marsh and finally into the largest old growth Bald Cypress forest in North America. These impressive trees, relatives of the redwood, tower 130 feet into the sky and have a girth of 25 feet. Their massive branches are draped with mosses, lichens, bromeliads and ferns. The forest is also home to hundreds of alligators, otters, white-tailed deer and red-bellied turtles. A wide variety of wading birds, songbirds, and raptors can be seen throughout the year.

Koreshan State Historic Site: Throughout its history, Florida has welcomed pioneers of all kinds. Cyrus Reed Teed was probably the most unusual, bringing followers to Estero in 1894 to build New Jerusalem for his new faith, Koreshanity. The colony, known as the Koreshan Unity, believed that the entire universe existed within a giant, hollow sphere. The colony began fading after Teed's death in 1908, and in 1961 the last four members deeded the land to the state. Today, visitors can fish, picnic, boat, and hike where Teed's visionaries once carried out survey experiments to prove the horizon on the beaches of Collier County curves upward. A boat ramp and canoe rentals are available. Visitors can take self-guided tours of the settlement or a ranger-guided tour. For overnight stays, the park has a full-facility campground.

Sunday, April 5: Migration Madness - Theodore Roosevelt Preserve

Leader: Wade Nolan (904-955-2534)

Meeting Place: Theodore Roosevelt Park is located at 13165 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Jacksonville. We will meet in the parking area of the trailhead entrance.

Theodore Roosevelt is part of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. We should see migrant warblers, vireos and possibly painted buntings. The walking is easy, a wide trail through maritime hammock to an observation deck overlooking Round Pond marsh and tidal creeks in the area. This is a great field trip for beginning birders as well as long timers.

Saturday, April 11: Migration Madness - Reddie Point

Leaders: Deborah J Kainauskas, 904-254-0148

Meeting Place: Reddie Point is located at 4499 Yachtsman way, Jacksonville. We'll meet at the entrance pond and then travel to the parking lot.

This is a great trip for beginning birders as well as long timers. Bring your binoculars, a friend, a field guide and bug spray. We'll start at Reddie Point, checking the shoreline, ponds and trails. We should see Osprey, terns, egrets, woodpeckers and herons. Reddie Point is a great migration hot-spot! Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo and Painted Buntings are frequently seen here in April. Other reported sightings include warblers; Black-throated Blue, Cape May, Hooded, Yellow-rumped and Blue-winged.

Sunday, April 12: Migration Madness: Princess Point

Leader: Laura Johannsen, h: 904-757-8894 c: 904-982-5710

Meeting Place: Princess Point is located at 2500 Princess Place Rd., Palm Coast, FL

Once home to a Russian prince, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers access to a freshwater creek, salt marsh and woodland habitats. There are historic homes, an artesian fountain and a few private inholdings on the property, and several hiking, horse and driving trails wind through the site.

Saturday, April 18: UNF Nature Trails

Leader: Anne Turner, 904-642-6295

Meeting Place: The Nature Center parking lot is located at 1 UNF Drive, Jacksonville

In a densely wooded corner of the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, the Robert W. Loftin Nature Trails are a prime place for birders to play. Protecting 500 acres, this sanctuary includes cypress swamps, sandhills, pine flatwoods, and Lake Onieda. Part of the National Recreational Trails System, the trails date back to the 1970s. They are very well-maintained and well-marked, offering hikes for a variety of abilities.

Sunday, April 19: Ribault Club (6:00 AM for owls; 7:00AM for the sleepy birds and birders)

Leader: Kevin Dailey 904-662-7609

Meeting Place: Fort George Island Ribault Club Parking lot is located at 11241 Fort George Road, Jacksonville

This is during spring migration and a great time to see a wide variety of Neo-tropical species. Painted Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, and Yellow-throated Warblers are just a few. We will start owling from the Ribault Club, then return there to meet the 7 am group. Located on the northernmost tip of Fort George Island, the Kingsley Plantation is a good place in the Jacksonville area to view fall Neotropical songbird migration. From mid-September to mid-October, birders will find 10+ species of warblers in the hardwood hammocks, plus wading birds and shorebirds along the salt marsh and mudflats of the Fort George River. Spring migration is equally exciting, with Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ovenbird, American Redstart and Worm-eating Warbler passing through. Scan the hardwoods for Blue-headed Vireo and Hermit Thrush in winter. Painted Bunting and Gull-billed Tern may be found in spring and summer; Reddish Egret and Gray Kingbird sometimes occur here as well. The site checklist includes raptors such as Osprey, Bald Eagle and Northern Harrier.

Saturday, April 25: Crosby Saturday

Leader: Pete Johnson

Meeting Place: Crosby Sanctuary is located at 427 Aquarius Concourse, Orange Park

Duval Audubon is working to provide more opportunities for our members and the public to visit and help with projects at the Crosby Sanctuary. Regular work days/field trips are scheduled on the fourth Saturday of the month throughout the 2014/2015 season.

Saturday, May 9: Huguenot Memorial Park @8AM for breakfast and brief meeting; 9AM for birding

Leader: Joan & Richard Becker (516-359-6838)

Come out and celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with us! We will meet at one of the shelters. Ask the attendant at the entrance for the location. Bring a breakfast dish to share. Coffee will be provided. Entrance fee per car is \$4.00. Early bird entry prior to 8am is \$3 using the kiosk - cash (exact bills only) or Visa/Mastercard.

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out these ways to help the birds!

Saturday March 7: Rally against seismic blasting and offshore drilling off the East Coast: Meet at 11:30 a.m., March begins at Noon, Press conference to follow at 12:30 p.m. Meet for march on the east side of the Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine, Fl. March will conclude at press conference location, in front of the City of St. Augustine City Hall, 75 King Street, St. Augustine, Fl. 32084. See the March for Ocean Justice facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/861072737289284>

Saturday April 11: Celebrate Earth at Camp Chowenwaw County Park: We need someone to lead a guided bird walk early in the day (8:15 or 8:30am). We would also like to have a table with information, displays, or an additional activity. If you're interested contact: Ann Stodola, Park Ranger for Clay County Division of Parks and Recreation, 904.529.8058 or Ann.Stodola@claycountygov.com

Saturday April 18: The Earth Day Ecology Fair (10AM to 4PM): This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Earth Day and Ecology Fair at The Jacksonville Landing. We need volunteers who can help to pass out literature and just talk to people about the birds.

Calling All Birders! The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is currently recruiting Citizen Science Volunteers to participate in several bird observation projects on Zoo grounds. They are looking for volunteers who meet the following criteria:

- Must have completed JZG Volunteer Orientation and training
- Must be able to identify native bird species
- Willing to commit at least 30 minutes per shift, at least once a month
- Able to accurately fill out and submit observation datasheets provided

Become a Zoo Volunteer! Apply online: <http://www.jacksonvillezoo.org/volunteer>

For more information, please contact the Volunteer Department: volunteer@jacksonvillezoo.org
(904) 757-4463 x 176



Credit: D. Hill

Want Your Photos in Audubon Observer?

You too can have your shot (pun intended) at Audubon Observer fame by uploading your photos to Meetup.com and specify permission in the comments box.

For best chances, please submit files as 300dpi CMYK in .jpg or .png format.

Label the image with your last name_place where taken_subject. For example: *Smith_FtCaroline_osprey*.