

THE AUDUBON OBSERVER

An e-publication of the Duval Audubon Society
September 2015

Serving Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties

President's Message

Get Ready! Get Set! Go Birding! We have another jam packed schedule of programs, workshops and field trips planned for the 2015-2016 season. We hope you will join us for the fun and learning experiences.

I would like to express our gratitude to President Carolyn Antman for her great service over the past two years. She has been a great role model for me and I am humbled and honored to be chosen to follow her as President for the next season. She will be speaking on Climate Change at the Audubon Assembly in October at the Sheraton Orlando North in Maitland, Florida.

There has been a change in the monthly program start time. We will begin the evenings at **6:30 p.m.** for a meet and greet with refreshments and start the program at 7:00 pm. The meeting location for the third Monday of the month continues to be at Swaim Memorial United Methodist Church at 1620 Naldo Avenue.

We open the season on September 16th at 6:30 pm with the first in a series of three E-bird workshops presented by Kevin Dailey, our local E-bird reviewer. After each workshop, there will be a field trip to practice the skills learned. The first field trip will be on September 19th at the UNF Nature Trails beginning at 8:00 am. This is the same day as the Eagle Watch Training Workshop with Audubon Eagle Watch Coordinator, Matt Smith and his Eagle assistant, which begins at 10:00 am at the J. M. Golden Pavilion at UNF. We had a great turnout last year with many new Eagle Watch volunteers signing up.

Crosby Saturdays Continue

We're moving toward opening Crosby Sanctuary to the public. As we fulfill our five-year plan, we will have "Crosby Saturdays" again this season. Every fourth Saturday we'll meet at the Sanctuary for birding and developing Crosby's resources. Check our website, Facebook page or Meetup.com group to find out what is happening on Crosby Saturdays. The entrance to Crosby is located at 427 Aquarius Concourse, Orange Park, Florida. Events begin at 8 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Speaking of volunteers, we would like to thank all our volunteers for their many hours of dedication to counting and stewarding shorebirds, monitoring Eagle nests and working at the Crosby Sanctuary. I would also like to acknowledge our volunteers who have participated in collecting data for the Breeding Bird Atlas. There are many great ways to help with Citizen Science projects. Ask us how you can participate.

We will continue working at Crosby Sanctuary the fourth Saturday of the month. There will be a project of the day selected by our Conservation Chair, Pete Johnson. We will begin the day with early birding of the area and finish with lunch at a local restaurant. This is always a rewarding activity.

This past summer we had a group of five Duval Audubon members attend a camp session at the National Audubon Society's Hog Island in Maine. We called ourselves the "Duval Divas". This was a great time of birding, learning and connecting with "like-minded" people. The session that we attended was "The Joy of Birding". The theme for this session related music to birds and nature with special guest presenter Paul Winter. There was a presentation by Dr. Stephen Kress about the Puffin Project. Also, Pete Dunne was an instructor and a marvelous field trip leader for the group. Visit hogisland.audubon.org to find out how you can experience this special place. Early bird registration begins in October.

Please visit our website www.duvalaudubon.org for event updates throughout the season. You can also find us on Facebook and Meetup.

I hope to see you out there!

Happy birding.

Judy Jeffas

President,
Duval Audubon Society



September Activities

September 16, 6:30 p.m. Introduction to eBird Workshop

This is the first of a three part series of eBird workshops to be held at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens Educational Facility. Kevin Dailey, the eBird reviewer for Duval, Nassau and Volusia counties, will conduct the workshops. Kevin will introduce eBird's background, scope, and impact on conservation by sharing a couple of real-world examples of how the data has been used for various efforts, including local success stories right here in our community. He will then walk you through how to manage your account, create checklists, select and create locations, how to record and document species, and submit your observations. The presentation will focus on the web version of the eBird software, as understanding the web version is foundational to using the mobile app in the field. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers after the presentation.

Each workshop will be followed up with practical, hands-on use in the field during a guided bird walk. The first field trip will be at the University of North Florida's Robert W. Loftin nature trails on Saturday, September 19th beginning at 8AM.

Location : Jacksonville Zoo & Garden Educational Facility. The Educational Facility is located beside the parking lot. You do not have to enter the main Zoo entrance.

Contact : Christina Dembiec, dembiecc@jacksonvillezoo.org

Saturday, September 19, 2015 8:00AM - 10:00 a.m.

Ebird Field Trip - UNF Robert Loftin Nature Trails

We'll be practicing our ebird skills during this field trip to University of North Florida. With this guided field trip those with the Android or iOS "BirdLog" or eBird apps can practice their entry skills in the field and get hands-on help when needed. All are welcome to attend.

These trails around Lake Onieda at UNF are named after Dr. Loftin (1938-1993), esteemed local professor, ornithologist, and conservationist, and provide easy walking access to a variety of habitats including pine flatwoods, cypress swamp and sandhill. We will be visiting at a perfect time of year to observe migrant warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks, in addition to the more common resident species like Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Pied-billed Grebe and Anhinga.

Location : University of North Florida Robert W. Loftin Nature Trails

Contact : Kevin Dailey, kedailey@yahoo.com

September 19, 10 a.m.

Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Training at UNF!

Matt Smith, Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, will be conducting this season's EagleWatch training on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the University of North Florida J.M. Golden Pavilion from 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

This is a wonderful training opportunity for volunteers to learn to monitor active bald eagle nests in Northeast Florida during the nesting season (October-May).

For more information on Audubon's EagleWatch program, visit [Audubon Florida EagleWatch](#)

For details, check our web site: duvalaudubon.org

QUESTIONS? Contact: Matt Smith mcsmith@audubon.org

Ann Harwood-Nuss a.harwoodnuss@comcast.net or

Gail Pfoh gailpfoh@comcast.net

September Program

September 21, 6:30-8p.m.

Our Wildland Security Advisory System: Cracking the Anti-Predator Code of Tufted Titmice

Speaker: Dr. Katie Sieving, Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida



The delightful Paridae (chickadees and titmice) are highly social birds that exhibit exceptional vocal complexity. Capable of encoding 2/3 of the information that the English language can, the sophisticated information encoded in parid calls is used by numerous species to avoid danger and enhance survival.

Dr. Katie Sieving of the UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation will discuss how we decode meaning in parid calls and how we are beginning to map landscapes of animal information.

Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are held the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall:

Swain Memorial United Methodist Church
1620 Naldo Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207



If you're not a member yet, please click the button and join us! Your membership helps support our work in Northeast Florida!



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Join our [Meetup](#) group to stay abreast of the latest happenings.

www.DuvalAudubon.org