

Flyways

A PUBLICATION OF



President's Message

Spring, 2019

- Colombia birding excursion
- Our Chapter in History
- The 22nd Annual Environmental Breakfast
- ASWFL Annual Meeting
- ...and more!



Collared Trogon

Although we are heading toward the end of the 2018-19 season, Audubon of Southwest Florida still has events planned during the spring and summer. Blake Jacoby, Shorebird Steward and Florida Gulf Coast University student, will be presenting his senior research project about monitoring black skimmers in Southwest Florida at the next Chapter meeting on April 18, 2019 and Jayne Johnston, Vice President and Education Chair, will lead a program and field trip at Barefoot Beach Preserve on April 13, 2019 (see further details in this newsletter and the Chapter's website, www.audubonswfl.org).

The Chapter's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 1, 2019. Note that this meeting will be held at a new location. It will include dinner, followed by a business meeting for the election of Board of Directors for 2019-2021, and the program. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or know of someone who is interested and willing to serve, nominations will be taken from the floor and voted on during the Annual Meeting.

Shorebirds have begun nesting in Florida, and the Chapter will begin the Summer Shorebird Stewardship Program at Carlos Pointe and Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area, located at the south end of Fort Myers Beach, from May through August. There will be a half day training session at Lovers Key State Park in April that will be posted on the website once it is scheduled. Volunteer stewards are needed to work mostly on weekends and over holidays to inform the beach-going public about the presence of nesting shorebirds and of the steps they can take to minimize impacts. Again, please check the website for additional details on the program.

Audubon Florida coordinates the Jay Watch citizen science program statewide, and volunteers are needed to monitor scrub jays at Hickey Creek Mitigation Park in east Lee County during the summer. Training for 2019 will be posted on <http://fl.audubon.org/get-involved/jay-watch> once they are announced.

Best,

Dan VanNorman

A Few Notes....

From the vice-president:

Leading the chapter as VP, part of my role includes securing financial support of the organization. I am looking for members who can assist with fundraising efforts for next season to not only continue our work, but to also expand our work to keep up with the growing population. If you can give us time, money, or supplies to support the goals of our volunteer board, please contact us. Lee County needs us more than ever before and with the new administration leading the state, now is a great time to take advantage of furthering our goals. Join us!

From the membership chair:

A warm and well-deserved thanks goes out to those of you who renewed or recently joined the local chapter. We could not offer the free programs, support a winter shorebird anchor steward, supply free guides and binoculars to kids, and provide a \$1,000 Florida Gulf Coast University scholarship without your support. If you have not joined the local chapter, please give it a thought. Seniors, teachers, and students can join for as little as \$15, organizations, can join at the \$100 level, and you can become a lifetime member and supporter at \$1,000. Join our local chapter

here: <https://www.audubonswfl.org/membership>. National Audubon Society members, you are automatically part of the local chapter and includes a subscription to Audubon magazine. You can join the National Audubon Society

here: <https://action.audubon.org/donate/donate-audubon>. Audubon Florida is the state chapter and your state membership the Florida Naturalist magazine. You can join them

here: https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/dvrzwVVJak-oaqLPmMKj4Q2?ms=giving_page_253.



Reddish egret at Bunche Beach

From the education chair:

For our 2018-2019 season, we added more festivals to our schedule, along with an education table or education activity. We have made snowy plover crafts encouraging kids and families to watch out for our beach nesters, and we made hand turkeys showcasing the importance of our wild turkeys to the ecosystem. We also supplied bird guides and binoculars to the Marine Biology and Ecology Club at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts middle school in Lehigh Acres. Coming up are activities to introduce kids to waterfowl and wading birds with our table at Wings Over Water at Harns Marsh. We're hoping to expand this program to additional schools next season.

Best,

Jayne

We appreciate your continued support!

What are you doing this fall?

Colombia Birding with Audubon of Southwest Florida
November 1-9, 2019 \$2,645 @ 12 participants (does not include airfare)

With over 1,900 avian species—more than any other country in the world—Colombia is a birder's paradise waiting to be discovered. This 9-day program focuses on the highlights of the Central Andes region, famed for its high level of species diversity, including the Rio Claro Natural Reserve, Nevado del Ruiz, Rio Blanco Reserve, and Otún Quimbaya Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. Explore high elevation mountains, humid tropical forest, páramo, wetlands, and highland savanna habitats in search of an array of tropical avifauna, including flycatchers, hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more. Throughout your journey, meet members of the local community and learn about conservation efforts to use birding as a sustainable development resource. For additional information, please contact Jayne Johnston at 239-770-8312 or jaynechristine@live.com. For trip details and to sign-up, visit: <https://www.holbrooktravel.com/where-we-travel/americas/colombia/colombia-birding-audubon-southwest-florida>.



Colombian Paramo



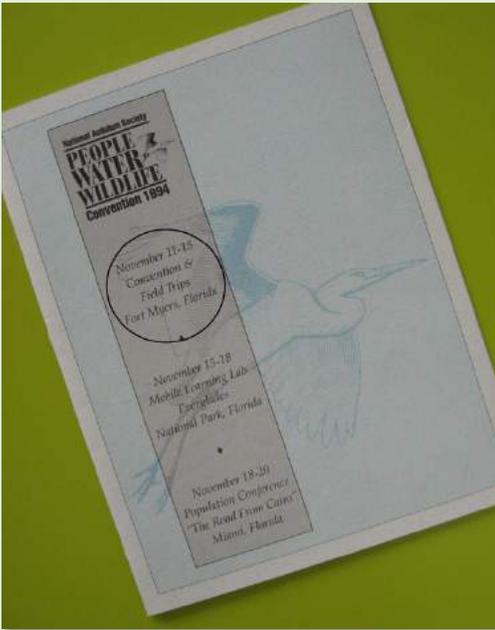
Blue-Crowned Motmot



Buffy Helmetcrest

Our Chapter in History...November 1994

By Gerri Reaves



Twenty-five years ago, ASWF had an especially exciting year when it was the chapter host for the five-day National Audubon Society's Biennial Convention. The chapter's board of directors and member volunteers worked hard to make the event happen, among them president Jim Reynolds and board members Neil Wilkinson, Vince McGrath, and Dan Van Norman (current president). The convention, with a theme of "People, Water, and Wildlife," was held in downtown Fort Myers in the Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel (now Campo Felice) and the Harborside Convention Center. The jam-packed schedule involved meetings, receptions, discussions, exhibits, speeches, award ceremonies, conference sessions, workshops, presentations, and numerous field trips. A few of the well-known attendees were Nathaniel Reed; Dr. Paul Ehrlich, author Peter Matthiessen; Florida Sen. Bob Graham; U.S. Rep. Porter Goss; Dr. Sylvia Earle; and former U.S. Pres. Jimmy Carter, who was awarded the 1994 Audubon Medal for his environmental work.

The program for the National Audubon Society's convention in 1994, for which ASWF was chapter host.

Winter Stewarding Report

This winter was productive for shorebirds, but the trouble was finding them! I spent time with some awesome Shorebird Stewards at Bunche Beach and Fort Myers Beach. The season provided sightings of Wilson's plovers, piping plovers, semipalmated plovers, spotted sandpipers, and many more. Bunche was often times experiencing incredibly low low tides. This made it easy to walk out onto the sandbar and observe birds feeding on the flats. My favorite bird of the season was a piping plover that frequented Bunche. This bird was banded in North Dakota and had evidently been through a lot. It was missing a foot, which I found out was lost to being entangled by monofilament. I was happy to see the plover foraging and flying without trouble. I want to thank everyone who came out to steward with me this season. I truly enjoyed spending time with you and having good conversation while finding birds! Even though my season is coming to an end, I will still be frequenting the beaches in Lee County. And, beginning this summer, I will be studying black skimmers on Carlos Pointe Beach for my master's thesis. I hope to see some of you faithful Stewards out there! Thank you again for your help! Go birds!

-Courtney

Black skimmer and chicks- photo by Britt Brown



You Are Invited!

Annual Meeting of Audubon of Southwest Florida

When: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Please join us at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 1, 2019! A spaghetti dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting, which will include nominations and election of the 2019 / 2020 board of directors.

Featured Program: South Florida Water Management District Projects & Florida Legislative Update

Speaker: Phil Flood

Program begins at 7:00 pm

The dinner, prepared and served by chapter volunteers, includes beverages, salad, mixed fruit, spaghetti with sauce, garlic toast, and desserts. Feel free to bring a dish to share for the dessert table, which is always a big hit at the annual meeting. Both the dinner and program are open to the public and presented free of charge. Donations are appreciated.

We will be moving to an exciting new location beginning with this Annual Meeting -

**The Collaboratory
2031 Jackson St
Fort Myers, FL 33901**

Please RSVP to audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com

The following slate of nominees has been proposed. Nominations from the floor are also acceptable.

Directors

Directors are elected by the membership. Directors with two-year terms expiring May 2019, include –

Courtney Kern - nominated to be re-elected to a two-year term

New additions to the board nominated to be elected to a two-year term – (nominations from the floor are also acceptable)

Carol, Gerri, Carl, Pete, and Wayne currently serve as directors at their pleasure as past presidents.

Officers

Officers are elected by the Board of Directors. Officer positions expiring May 2019, include Secretary – Gerri Reaves - nominated to be re-elected to a two-year term

ASWF Board -

Officers -

President – Dan VanNorman
Vice President – Jayne Johnston
Treasurer & 2nd VP – Jim Rodenfels
Secretary – Gerri Reaves

Directors -

Brad Cornell
Wayne Daltry
Courtney Kern
Sean McCabe
Carol Newcomb
Pete Quasius
Carl Veaux

Committees -

Conservation – Brad Cornell
Education – Jayne Johnston
Field Trip – Sean McCabe
Newsletter – Courtney Kern
Membership – Jayne Johnston
Program – Gerri Reaves
Publicity – Carol Newcomb
Hospitality – Jim Convery; Carol Mariany

Save the Date!

Our 22nd Annual Environmental Breakfast Thursday
October 31, 2019 will be held at the Riverside Community
Center in Fort Myers. Breakfast to be served at 7:30 am.
Please RSVP to Audubon of Southwest Florida at
audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com. We look forward to
seeing you there!



Screech Owl

Membership -

You may not be aware Audubon of Southwest Florida, while an affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society, is, like all other local chapters, a separate organization (chapter code E33). We are including you in our annual mailing in the hope that you will consider joining our local chapter if you are not currently a member or renewing your current annual membership. Annual calendar-year memberships may be renewed either on-line at our website, or by using the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your support; it enables us to continue the good work our chapter does to protect our local resources.

How to reach us -

We invite you to stay in touch through our website - www.audubonswfl.org- or on Facebook. Just search under “Audubon of Southwest Florida” and, please send us your e-mail address. That way you can be sure you receive advance notification of any upcoming events, programs, field trips, etc., and can also receive our e-newsletter. Just send a note to audubon.southwest.florida@gmail.com If you prefer, you may mail us at P.O. Box 61041, Fort Myers, FL 33906.

Thank you for your support!



Wilson's plover chick- photo by Britt Brown

Mission Statement and Required Charitable Solicitation Statement -

The mission of Audubon of Southwest Florida is to protect plants, animals, and their habitats and to promote environmental education and a greater community involvement with the natural world. ASWF is an affiliated chapter (E33) of the National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida.

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