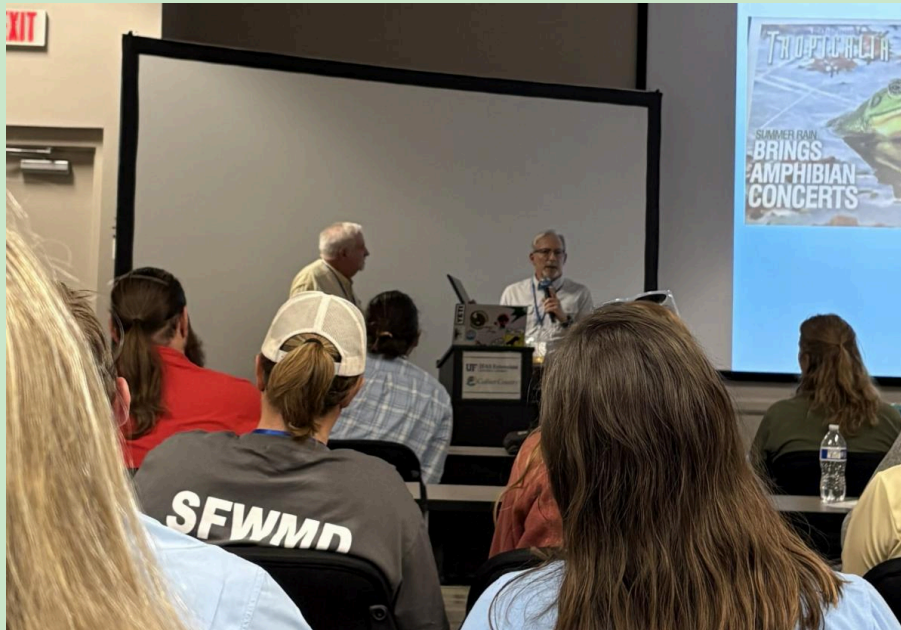




Audubon
of Southwest Florida

When birds thrive, people prosper

Flyways / June-July /2026



Frog Watch Program Honors Dan VanNorman

Audubon of SWFL Vice President Dan VanNorman was honored at the Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum in May for his outstanding contributions to the Frog Watch Program. Dan has monitored the Cape Coral Frog Watch route continuously for 26 years, since the program began in 2000, without ever missing a monitoring day.

Frog Watch has over ten routes in southwest Florida that are monitored one night per month during summer. This long-term data set provides critically important information about how changes to our landscape are affecting amphibian biodiversity and abundance in our area.



CREW Orchid Restoration Project: One Year Later

In 2025, Audubon of Southwest Florida was awarded an Audubon of Florida Plants for Birds grant to help cover the cost of a collaborative project to restore native orchids at CREW. 380 native orchids from 13 species were planted. One year later, the results are very promising. 70% of the orchids were located again, and of those, 71% were alive.

This is significant and encouraging, considering there was no watering or care given to the orchids after they were planted, and our area experienced drought and frost over the winter.

More Purple Martin News!

The Purple Martin Tower at CREW Flint Pen Strand continues to fledge lots of chicks. The tower has already fledged 43 chicks this year, with fifteen more eggs and chicks still in the tower.



Annual Meeting & Election

The Annual Membership Meeting of Audubon of Southwest Florida was held at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve's Interpretive Center on May 30. Following the meeting, board member Vince McGrath led a field trip along the Preserve's boardwalk.

The chapter's 2026-27 Board of Directors and officers are: Gerri Reaves, president; Dan VanNorman, vice-president; Robin Serne, secretary; and Brad Cornell & Lona Philpot, board members at large. Vince McGrath serves at will as a past chapter president.

Calling All Bird-Loving Haiku Poets Audubon Florida Seeks "Vulture Verses"

In celebration of International Vulture Awareness Day, Audubon Florida invites aspiring poets to submit haiku poems about the state's Black and Turkey Vultures.

The Awareness Day occurs on the first Saturday of September each year and honors the ecological importance of native vultures. While not typically considered charismatic birds, they are nevertheless a vital clean-up crew and are protected by the U.S.'s Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Complete the [entry form here](#). Entrants must be at least 18 years old and submit the poems by July 31, 2026. Fifteen winners will have their poems installed at Audubon Florida's Center for Birds of Prey storywalk in Maitland. Winners will also receive an annual pass to the acclaimed Center.



Future Field Trips for 2026-27

Whether you're new to birding or a Big-List birder, our field trips offer you the best birding and nature locations in Southwest Florida. Better yet, you will get to meet



others in our community who love birding and nature and who are engaged in environmental issues in Lee County and beyond.

You'll be guided by one of our esteemed birding volunteers, Vince McGrath or Robin Serne. Members and non-members / beginner to advanced birders--all are welcome! All chapter-sponsored field trips are free, but donations are always appreciated. Parking or rental fees sometimes apply.

2026

September 9 Six Mile Cypress Slough Boardwalk

October 14 Sanibel Lighthouse Hawk Watch

November 11 CREW Flint Pen Migration/Shorebirds

December 26 Christmas Bird Count at Barefoot Beach

2027

January 13 Prairie Pines Preserve in North Fort Myers

February 10 CREW Bird Rookery Swamp

March 10 CREW Marsh Trails / Swallow Tailed Kites

April 14 Bunche Beach

More information, including times, maps, and sign-up, are all available on our website's [Field Trips page](#).



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The Advocate Newsletter

Stay up-to-date on the legislative session to learn when you can use your voice for birds!

audubon.org/florida/advocate



**Join or renew
your calendar
year chapter
membership
today**



**\$15 student / teacher
\$15 senior (over 65)
\$20 individual
\$30 household
\$100 organization
\$1,000 lifetime**

**www.Audubonswfl.org
select Join Us- Membership**

Join Us!

Please support our chapter's work by joining or renewing your membership today on our [website](#). You may also send us a check directly to:

Audubon of Southwest Florida, INC.
Post Office Box 61041
Fort Myers, Florida 33906-1041

Or consider an end-of-year donation to the chapter.

Your support enables us to fulfill our mission of protecting birds and their habitats.

Audubon of Southwest Florida, as an affiliated local chapter (E33) of the National Audubon Society and an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization, so donations and memberships are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Bookmark Our Website

Visit [our website](#) regularly for chapter news and updates, shorebird stewardship reports, and information about window collisions and other matters of local and national interest. And follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for regular updates as well.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

THE FLORIDA REGISTRATION NUMBER FOR AUDUBON OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA IS CH30193.

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