

# TAMPA AUDUBON SOCIETY

# Avocet



“To conserve and restore our ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and their habitats, through education, advocacy, and community

Www.tampaaudubon.org

Fall 2010

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Pelagic Birding Trip

In the October Night Sky  
*by David Voits*

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*by Bev Griffiths*



## Holiday Birding in Costa Rica

November 26-30, 2010

Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Santa Elena Reserve & Palo Verde National Park

2 spaces remaining

Call Mary Keith at 935-6115

## Monthly Membership Meetings

The 2nd Thursday of the month except where noted

Hillsborough County Extension Office  
5339 CR 579, Seffner, 7:15 PM

1/2 mile south of exit 10 on I-4 (left side of road)

**Photo Club will meet at 6 PM**

**October 21 (third Thursday)**

## Sinkholes & Swamps, Florida's Karst & Wetlands

Mike Mullins, Director, Audubon Resource Center (ARC)  
At Lettuce Lake Park

## MOVING HILLSBOROUGH FORWARD

Tampa Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida endorse the **Moving Hillsborough Forward** referendum.

Development of a reasonable regional transportation system that moves beyond just building more and more roads is sensible and will conserve our resources community wide.

We urge you to vote for County Wide Transportation on November 2 nd.

See: [www.moving hillsboroughforward.org](http://www.moving hillsboroughforward.org) for more information.



**November 11**

**Raptors**

Jason Guerard, Tampa Audubon Board Member, Professional hawk Counter.

Have you noticed the swirling masses of vultures in the winter? Did you know that a hawk watch site in South Florida boasts the highest single day count of Peregrine Falcons in the U.S.? Join us for a discussion on raptor migration and identification with Tampa Audubon Board member, Jason Guerard, past professional hawk counter. Jason has logged more than 3500 hours working on hawk watch platforms at some of the country's most renowned migration locations including Cape May, NJ and Braddock Bay, NY. This discussion will cover the 21 (yes, twenty-one!) more common species of diurnal raptor that can be found in Florida. Species-specific natural history and migration movements through the state of Florida will also be discussed. Guides for furthering your "raptorial" education and tracking information will round out this program that is not to be missed.

**December 9**

**Holiday Party & Covered Dish Dinner**

Bring your favorite dish to share. TAS will supply drinks, plates, etc.

**Would someone like to prepare table decorations?**

Any ideas for activities, please email Pat Lewis at [tasnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:tasnewsletter@aol.com)

**January 13**

**Local Birding**

Roger Sheets, Tampa Audubon Board Member and docent at Lettuce Lake Park, also a great photographer!

I'm sure we will see some of his outstanding photos!



Immature Night Heron  
*Taken by Roger*



**February 10**

**Beginning Birding**

Bill Lamoureux, Tampa Audubon Board Member, fieldtrip chairman.

Beginning Birding Tools & Tips

**March 10**

**TAS Photo Contest (watch website for rules)**

**Pick out your favorite photos to submit!**

**Jo Anne Hartzler**, Tampa Audubon Board Member



**April 14**

**Birding Papua New Guinea**

**Mary Keith & Tim Bonsack**

Tampa Audubon Board Members and World Birding Travelers



**May 12**

**Tampa Audubon Photo Club Presentation**

**With Live Photo Auction**

## FIELDTRIPS

### Fieldtrips

**Please check website [www.tampaaudubon.org](http://www.tampaaudubon.org) for changes and updates**

**(Many Hillsborough County Parks have a \$2 entrance fee)**

**Fieldtrips are free and open to the public Except where there is a special fee for a boat ride, etc**

**Keep in mind that if you ride with someone it is courteous to share in the cost for gas and/or tolls**

**Saturday October 9 - Lettuce Lake Beginning Birders**, Roger Sheets, 677-6577, [rwsheets3@gmail.com](mailto:rwsheets3@gmail.com), Meet at 9 am at the Visitor Center.

**Saturday October 16 - Cockroach Bay**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com), Meet at 8 am at the McDonalds on Rt 60 near I-75. Park on west side in Sweet Tomato lot.

**Saturday October 23 - Violet Curry Park**, Bill Lamoureux, Meet in parking area on Sinclair Hills Rd about 3 blocks west of Livingston Rd (north of Bearss, east of I-257).

**Sunday November 7 - Blackwater Creek, polk Co.** Dave Goodwin, [dgood389@aol.com](mailto:dgood389@aol.com), meet at 7:30 am at McDonalds on I-4 and Macintosh Rd.

**Saturday November 13 - Lettuce Lake Park, Beginning Birders**, Mary Keith, 935-6115, [keithma1@juno.com](mailto:keithma1@juno.com), Meet at 9 am at the Visitor Center.

**Sunday November 21 - Honeymoon Island Park**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com), Meet at 8 am at the McDonalds on Rt 19 and Curlew Rd (northwest corner).

**Holiday Birding in Costa Rica - 26 - 30**, Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve, Santa Elena Reserve & Palo Verde National Park. 2 spaces left, Mary Keith, 935-6115, [keithma1@juno.com](mailto:keithma1@juno.com).

**Saturday December 4 - Al Lopez Park, birds & brunch at Village Inn**, Bill Lamoureux Meet at 8 am at Pavilion 302 just inside the entrance on the right.

**Sunday December 11 - Lettuce Lake Park, Beginning Birders**, Meet at 9 am at the Visitor Center.

**Sunday December - Alafia Christmas Bird Count**, Dave Bowman 948-8576, [dsbowman@earthlink.net](mailto:dsbowman@earthlink.net), all levels of birders also nonbirders can record sightings, any amount of time you can spend will be a great help.

### 2011

**Sunday January 2 - Tampa Christmas Bird Count**, Dave Bowman 948-8576, [dsbowman@earthlink.net](mailto:dsbowman@earthlink.net), all levels of birders also nonbirders can record sightings, any amount of time you can spend will be a great help.

**Saturday January 8 - Lettuce Lake Park, Beginning Birders**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com). Meet at Visitor Center at 9 am.

**Saturday January 15 - USF area duck ponds and Cypress Point**, Mary Keith, 935-6115, [keithma1@juno.com](mailto:keithma1@juno.com). Meet at 8 am at the Burger King on the southeast corner of Fowler and Nebraska. We will be following Mary from here, we will not be leaving our cars here.

**Saturday January 22 - Mosaic Phosphate Mines**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com). Meet at McDonalds on Rt 60 near I-75 at 8 am. We will be met in Mulberry by mine staff to lead us to the best spots on mine lands in Polk Co. DO NOT miss this trip, it is a 100 species day. Lunch provided by the Mosaic.

**Sunday January 20 - Myakka River & Oscar Sherer State Parks**, Admission fee, Mary Keith, 935-6115, [keithma1@juno.com](mailto:keithma1@juno.com). Meet at McDonalds on Rt 60 near I-75 at 7 am. **Look for native Scrub Jays at Oscar Sherer.**

**Saturday February 12 - Lettuce Lake Park Beginning Birders**, Pat Lewis, 907-6542, [plewis8216@aol.com](mailto:plewis8216@aol.com). Meet at Visitor Center at 9 am.

**Sunday February 13 - Merritt Island NWR & Vierra Wetlands**, Mary Keith, 935-6115, [keithma1@juno.com](mailto:keithma1@juno.com)., Meet at 7 am at the IHOP on Fowler near I-75. **This is a 100 species day!** Call Mary if you would like to make this an overnight trip.

**Sunday February 27 - Manatee Viewing Center, Apollo Beach & Simmons Park**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com), Meet at 8 am at McDonalds on Rt 60 near I-75

**Saturday March 5 - Circle B Bar Ranch, Lakeland**, Bill Lamoureux, 839-2742, [wlamoureux@aol.com](mailto:wlamoureux@aol.com), Meet at McDonalds on Rt 60 near I-75

# Pelagic Birding Trip with the Marine Science Center

## Sunday, November 14, 2010

The Friends of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet is sponsoring a pelagic birding trip on Sunday, November 14, 2010.

The trip will head out from the New Smyrna side of the Inlet to "The Steeples" -- an area of sea mounts and upwellings on the western edge of the Gulf Stream. This trip holds the probability of encountering numerous pelagic species. Jaeger migration should be active. This trip is during the beginning of winter migration, when there are good chances at fall migrants such as Manx Shearwater, and the possibility of winter rarities.

Potential Species include (\* = good probability):

Common Loon*	Cory's Shearwater *
Greater Shearwater *	Sooty Shearwater
Audubon's Shearwater *	Manx Shearwater *
Wilson's Storm Petrel *	Leach's Storm-Petrel *
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Brown Booby (Seen on Nov. 2009 trip)
Northern Gannet *	Red-billed Tropicbird (Seen on Nov. 2007 trip)
White-tailed Tropicbird	Red Phalarope *
Red-necked Phalarope *	Pomarine Jaeger *
Parasitic Jaeger *	Long-tailed Jaeger (Seen on Nov. 2007 trip)
Sooty Tern	Bridled Tern *
Brown Noddy	Sabine's Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake	Black Scoter *
White-winged Scoter	Surf Scoter *

The trip will be aboard "The Pastime Princess" a 100-foot, all-aluminum boat with excellent observation areas on the upper deck and bow and even a nice stern seating area. The cabin can also accommodate 30-40 in air-conditioned comfort. To learn more about the boat go <http://www.pastimeprincess.com>.

**The trip will depart at 6:00 a.m.** from the dock beside the Dolphin View Restaurant on Riverside Drive near Canal Street in downtown New Smyrna Beach (phone 386-427- 5393) and return at 6:00 pm. **You must be on the boat 15 minutes prior to departure;** the boat will not wait for anyone who is late.

Participants can bring their own food and beverages, but food service will also be available for breakfast and lunch at moderate prices.

**Be sure to bring warm layered clothing, rain gear, seasickness medicine, sunscreen and personal items.**

**COST: \$125/person.**

Please send checks, made payable to "The Friends of the Marine Science Center" to:

**Friends of the Marine Science Center  
100 Lighthouse Drive  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127**

**To sign up please contact:  
Michael Brothers  
Marine Science Center  
100 Lighthouse Drive  
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127  
386-304-5543**

## IN THE SKY DURING OCTOBER

The evenings of October will be an interesting time to enjoy the sky. Nights are starting to come earlier, and the temperature will generally not be too cold. During the first days of the month, brilliant Venus will still be present very low in the western, early evening sky. Look for it about 20 minutes after sunset. Once Venus is found, look for much dimmer Mars above it. However, you will need to wait until about 45 minutes after sunset to find Mars, and binoculars will be needed. Both will soon be lost in the glare of the Sun.



With the loss of Venus, Jupiter will become the brightest “star” in the sky. It will be easy to locate in the eastern, evening sky, and it will pass high across the sky during the night. Once located, Jupiter can be a very useful help in finding some nearby dimmer constellations. If you are in a very dark sky during the evening, look immediately above Jupiter and a little to the right for a dim oval of stars about two finger widths long. This oval, which has most of the brighter stars of the dim constellation Pisces (the Fish), represents the westernmost of two fish that are tied together.

To the upper left of Jupiter and the dim oval of Pisces is the “Great Square” of Pegasus (the Winged Horse). Although it is not bright, the Great Square is fairly easy to trace out. It is a little larger than a fist held at arm’s length, and it is tipped so that one corner points to the eastern horizon. The Great Square represents the front half of the body of the upside-down Winged Horse. The back half of the horse did not make it into the sky. The neck of the horse is a line of stars that extends to the right of the southwestern star of the Great Square that is also the star to the upper right of Jupiter. After about the length of your fist held at arm's length, the line of stars turns sharply upward to form the nose of the horse.

The northeastern star of the Great Square - the one that is diagonally across from the star that forms the base of the neck - is shared with the constellation Andromeda (the Princess). Andromeda is formed by two divergent, slightly curved lines of three stars that extend northward from this star. The outer (eastern) curved line of stars is somewhat brighter, about the same brightness as the Great Square. Just below Andromeda is the very faint second fish of Pisces. The very faint line of stars that ties the two fish together extends eastward from this fish and past the southern (right) end of the small constellation Aries (the Ram) before turning sharply southwestward to join the fish that is between Pegasus and Jupiter.

### Highlights:

- Oct. 5 Astronomy 101 program “An Introduction to the Evening Sky: Where Can I Find Things in the Sky” Waterloo Public Library (Note: this is a new location), 6:30.
- Oct. 9 The crescent Moon will be to the upper left of Venus. Mars will be above the Moon. Look about 20 minutes after sunset for Venus and about 45 minutes after sunset with binoculars for Mars.
- Oct. 11 The Moon will be to the upper left of Antares, the brightest star of the constellation Scorpius (the Scorpion).
- Oct. 19 The bright Moon will rise above brilliant Jupiter and to the lower right of the Great Square of Pegasus (the Winged Horse). It will also be at the western end of the oval that forms the westernmost fish of Pisces (the Fish), but the Moon will be so bright that it will obscure these faint stars.
- Oct. 24 The Moon will be to the upper right of the Pleiades (or Seven Sisters), an Open Star Cluster in the constellation Taurus (the Bull), when they rise in the early evening.
- Oct. 25 The Moon will rise in mid-evening to the upper left of the bright star Aldebaran, which represents the orange eye of Taurus (the Bull). The eye is the lower end of a nearly horizontal "V" that forms the rest of the bull's face. The bull's nose is the point of the "V" that is to the right of Aldebaran. The other eye is the upper tip of the "V" that is above Aldebaran. This eye will also be about half way between Aldebaran and the Moon. The Pleiades Open Star Cluster will be to the upper right of the Moon.

### Moon Phases:

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Rises</u>	<u>Highest point</u>	<u>Sets</u>	<u>When Visible</u>
New moon	Oct. 6	Sunrise	Noon	Sunset	Not visible
First quarter	Oct. 14	Noon	Sunset	Midnight	P.M.
Full moon	Oct. 22	Sunset	Midnight	Sunrise	All night
Last quarter	Oct. 30	Midnight	Sunrise	Noon	A.M.



### **Thanks for Joining the Cleanup at Sunset Sanctuary ~ September 25**

We had a total of 11 volunteers (myself included) and I estimate we picked up around 1000 lbs of trash which included boards, carpet scraps, a truckled liner, the usual food wrap and drink containers and tennis balls and a baseball.

I'm hoping that one of you (from Audubon) can notify and work with Tampa Port Authority to treat and eradicate the new Brazilian pepper bush and the skunk vine.

Another concern I have is that someone is taking the liberty to use the sanctuary to dump their yard waste. There were at least two large cut palm tree stumps and many palm fronds that appeared to have been trimmed and dumped. Perhaps some signage is needed to discourage this behavior as it's an entryway for invasive plants to become established.

I couldn't help but notice how unhealthy the mangroves fronting one of the properties looked after they were trimmed like a hedge. They top portion looked dry and dead, kind of grayish.

A piece of good news-we had one woman who lives in the neighborhood join us for the very first time. I sent the announcement to the neighborhood association president and he ran it in their newsletter. Also, one man who lives close by walked over and requested to be emailed next time so he could join us. The more locals we can get engaged, the better.

Bev Griffiths, Chair  
Sierra Club-Tampa Bay Group  
813-741-3054

