

The Space Coast birding & wildlife *Festival 2008*



Presented by

Nikon & The Brevard Nature Alliance

Titusville, Florida • January 23-28, 2008

Brevard Community College • North Campus

Space Coast Limpkin

*Photo courtesy of
Mike Freiberg*

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Through the Raptor Project, Jonathan Wood educates millions of people about owls, eagles, falcons and hawks while sharing his vision of conservation and rehabilitation of Birds of Prey. In the field, Jonathan chooses the Monarch ATB for its exceptional optical performance in any conditions. It is no wonder Monarch has become a top choice of birders and conservationists worldwide.



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on the cover

Space Coast Limpkin

Cover photo: Mike Frieberg, Nikon Sport Optics Birding Market Specialist

Central Florida is a place that I have just discovered since I entered my twenties. With as much traveling as I've done in my life until now, I am completely flabbergasted that I have not visited earlier in my life. One beautiful factoid about this majestic area is that the birds are showy! Destinations like Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Kissimmee are a photographer's and birder's dream venture and Central Florida has no shortage of these types of birding venues. There are many species of birds that can be seen here, easily, that are difficult to find elsewhere.

The Limpkin is a bird that I've wanted to see since I was a child. With the entire United States population residing in Florida and a small portion of Georgia, a separate trip was called for to find these elusive swamp dwellers. Capitalizing on the privilege of an invitation to the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival a few years back, I came to Central Florida and I haven't missed an opportunity to return every year. Spectacular birds like this never get old!

Having heard that Lake Kissimmee is among the most reliable of places to view this secretive creature, I went to Brinson Park at the north end of the lake on my first visit to Central Florida. Lo and behold, as I parked my car I spotted one right on the shoreline. The Limpkin was fooling around trying to pry open a snail that lay beneath it's feet. I had my Nikon Digiscoping set-up with me and I was able to get it out of the car and fully set-up within a minute's time. The bird allowed for numerous good shots. Lucky for me, I was able to document my "life," Limpkin in Central Florida, courtesy of Nikon Digiscoping equipment.

Awesome experiences like this one make me hungry to come back for more. I've realized what a special event this is and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to indulge in these areas every year. The Space Coast Festival is a great route to take to view unique southeast specialties like the Limpkin. You'd better believe I'm heading back!

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www.VISITFLORIDA.com

"This project made possible through funding provided by VISIT FLORIDA™ and the Florida Commission on Tourism."



www.space-coast.com

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The Mission of the BNA is to promote and protect the environment for nature-based activities. The BNA serves as one of the primary advocates of community-based nature activities in Brevard County, dedicated to the enrichment of our community through an understanding and appreciation of natural resources, nature-based tourism, sensible growth management and ecosystem needs.

For more information or to become a member of the BNA, contact Neta Harris at 321-268-5224 or visit the website - www.natureandspace.com

The Brevard Nature Alliance is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. The value of your donation may be deductible for tax purposes.

*** 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. Registration #: CH19903 - Florida Solicitation of Contribution Act.

welcome

to the 11th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

Presented by Nikon and the Brevard Nature Alliance The trusted name in optics™



We take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the businesses, organizations, schools, families and individuals who participate in some aspect of the Festival each year and have helped to establish the essence and quality of this premier event. By affirming our environmental stewardship for the globally significant natural areas of Florida's Space Coast, we encourage nature tourists as well as local citizens to participate in building a legacy of conserving both natural and cultural resources. Thanks to:

- The Sponsors who continue to support the Festival by contributing funding and in-kind services that defray expenses associated with producing this annual extravaganza.
- The Exhibitors who have helped to shape the Festival by sharing ideas and advising event developers in implementing improvements.
- The expert Speakers and Field Trip Leaders who make it possible for birders of all levels to experience and appreciate the exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities of the Space Coast.
- The many Volunteers (those who live in this community and those from other areas) who assist in making our guests - the attendees - feel welcome and help them to enjoy a memorable experience.
- The Attendees (both visitors and residents) who each contribute to the growth and recognition of the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival as one of the nation's most prestigious birding and wildlife venues.

We hope you enjoy the 2008 Festival, broaden your horizons, learn or see something different, meet new friends and plan to return many times during the year to enjoy the treasured places of Florida's Space Coast.

The Brevard Nature Alliance

festival information

Contact the Festival Office by phone: 1-800-460-2664 or 321-268-5224 or by e-mail: neta@natureandspace.com. Mailing address is P. O. Box 517, Titusville, FL 32781-0517. The office is staffed from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. If we are not available, please leave a message and we will get back to you! You may also visit the festival web site: www.nbhd.com/fly/

Office functions will move to the Brevard Community College (BCC),

Titusville Campus (1311 North U.S. 1, Titusville, FL 32796) on January 22, 2008 to facilitate the set-up of the Exhibit Center. The Festival Registration Desk is located in the Gymnasium and will be open during the following hours:

Wednesday, January 23 – 6:00am to 6:00pm

Thursday, January 24 – 6:00am to 6:00pm

Friday, January 25 – 6:00am to 6:00pm

Saturday, January 26 – 6:00am to 6:00pm

Sunday, January 27 – 6:00am to 11:00am

The Sunday Social is at Fox Lake Park on Sunday, January 27 from 1:30pm to 5:00pm.

Food service will be provided by Hot Stuff Catering. Snacks, coffee and other beverages will be served at the snack bar located in the Gymnasium. Hot food (including vegetarian and heart-healthy items) will be served at the food service area adjacent to the Community Dining Room near the Pavilion. Tables are available in both food service areas and outside in the Pavilion. Coffee and breakfast items will be available at the snack bar each morning prior to bus departure.

We look forward to helping you enjoy the Festival!

exhibit center

visitor friendly

The Exhibit Center is an important aspect of the Festival and we invite you to visit all exhibitors, as they will have unique and quality items. Artists, craft persons, businesses and organizations specializing in nature and wildlife, birding, photography, optics and nature-tourism are well represented. Seminars and field trips are arranged so that there will be ample time to view beautiful art and craftwork, find out



Exhibit area during 2007 Festival. Photo by Joel Reynolds

The Raptor Project



sponsored by Nikon Sport Optics

Photo by Ray Scory

Raptor Project founders Jonathan and Susan Wood have assembled a travelling collection of dynamic feathered predators that is unrivaled in scope and size anywhere in the world. A master falconer and wildlife rehabilitator, Jonathan brings unique insights, observations and humor to his riveting, nationally-acclaimed shows. Many of the birds in the Raptor Project have permanent handicaps, but have now been tamed and trained to educate the public as charming ambassadors of their species and the environments they inhabit. Jonathan works with birds in a wide range of sizes, from small falcons and owls weighing 3 to 4 ounces to majestic eagles with 6 to 8 foot

wingspans. Featuring 15 to 20 raptors from diverse habitats at each show, these fierce predators capture the hearts of both young and old. Following each show, Jonathan will take some birds outside and fly them.

www.raptorproject.com

www.nikonsportoptics.com

Show Times:

Thu., Jan. 24: 12:00pm, 2:00pm

Fri., Jan. 25: 9:30am, 1:00pm, 3:30pm

Sat., Jan. 26: 10:00am, 2:00pm, 3:30pm



more about this area or buy that perfect gift or accessory.

The Exhibit Center is located in the Gymnasium at Brevard Community College, Titusville Campus. Exhibit hours: Wednesday, January 23, 1:00pm-6:00pm; Thursday, January 24, 12:00pm-6:00pm; Friday, January 25 and Saturday, January 26, 9:00am-6:00pm.



Silent auction during 2007 Festival. Photo by Joel Reynolds

Socials will be held in the Exhibit Center 5pm-6pm, Wednesday through Saturday.

silent auction

to benefit the festival

You are invited to donate items for auction. Items should be new and never used. Please contact Barb Hoelscher at 321-268-5888 or e-mail bjkhoelscher@gmail.com to arrange for pick-up. Your generous donation will be acknowledged.

Welcome Bidders: The Silent Auction will run during the Festival from 9am on Thursday, January 24 to an undisclosed time on Saturday afternoon, January 26. Winners will be posted at the Silent Auction booth at 4:30pm on Saturday, January 26. Winners may pick up their items between 4:30pm Saturday and 11:00am on Sunday, January 27. We will be glad to ship your Silent Auction winnings to you. Shipping and handling will be added to the winning bid amounts.

Just a reminder: next year's Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival will be held January 21-26, 2009!

sponsors

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Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce
Titusville Area Visitors Council
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wild Bird Magazine
www.VisitTitusville.com

how to get here

The Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival is based at Brevard Community College (BCC) – Titusville Campus 1311 N. US 1. Registration desk, seminars, workshops, field trip staging, exhibits, and food service can be found there January 23-27, 2008.

If You Are Driving:

Take Interstate 95 To Titusville.

- From the south, exit at SR 406 (Exit 220). Go east to US 1. Go north on US 1 for 1.9 miles. BCC is on the right, just north of the Parrish Medical Center.
- From the north, exit at SR 46 (Exit 223). Go east to US 1. Go south on US 1 for 2.4 miles. BCC will be on the left.

If You Are Flying:

- From Orlando International Airport: Go east on SR 528 (Beachline/Toll Road) to I-95 (follow the sign that directs you to I-95 North). Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.
- From Melbourne International Airport: Follow signs directing you from the Airport to I-95. Go north on I-95. Follow above driving directions coming from the south.
- From Daytona International Airport: Follow signs directing you from the Airport to I-95. Go south on I-95. Follow driving directions coming from the north.

We encourage you to patronize the sponsors, partners, and advertisers and visit the parks and preserves that have so generously donated staff and access for this event. Through their support, they have made a commitment to protect our natural resources.

area hotels

Ask for the Space Coast Birding Festival discount.

Best Western Space Shuttle Inn

Titusville321-269-9100

Clarion Inn - Kennedy Space Center

Titusville321-269-2121

Comfort Inn

Titusville800-715-7110

Days Inn - Kennedy Space Center

Titusville321-269-4480

Hampton Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center

Titusville321-383-9191

Ramada Inn & Suites

Titusville321-269-5510

Riverside Inn - Kennedy Space Center

Titusville321-267-7900

Super 8 - Kennedy Space Center

Titusville321-269-9310

area camping & rv parks

Cape Kennedy KOA

Mims 321-269-7361

Crystal Lake RV Park

Scottsmoor/Mims 321-268-8555

Great Outdoors Golf & Country Club

Titusville 321-269-5004

Loughman Lake Campground & RV Park

Mims 321-268-2277

Manatee Hammock Campground

Titusville 321-264-5083

Seasons in the Sun RV Park

Mims 321-385-0440

Willow Lakes RV Park

Mims 321-269-7440

opportunities to meet & mingle

welcome reception

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The Festival Opening Welcome Reception will be held Wednesday, January 23, from 5-6pm in the Exhibit Center. Wine, beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served by Hot Stuff Catering. Greet old friends, make new ones, meet the speakers and field trip leaders and visit with the exhibitors. **Beverages and water furnished by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group/Aquafina.**

Non-registrants: \$10

www.reliant.com/corporate

keynote socials

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More Recreation
Than Any Florida Port

A daily afternoon Social preceding the evening Keynote Presentation will be held in the Exhibit Center Thursday through Saturday from 5-6pm. Wine, beverages and light snacks will be served by Hot Stuff Catering. Exhibitors will welcome visits to their booths and you might find that special item or gift for which you have been looking! Stroll through the Festival Art Competition entries. Many of these items may be purchased. **Beverages and water furnished by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group/Aquafina.**

Non-registrants: \$7.50 for each function

www.portcanaveral.org

sunday social at fox lake park

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Working to Preserve
Earth's Diversity

Bring your friends and family and join the Festival crew and fellow birders for a relaxing afternoon at Fox Lake Park. Meander over to the lake and see a familiar bird or two at home in this beautiful natural setting. R. G. Evans will entertain you with some familiar toe-tapping music and sentimental songs.

After a great meal complete with scrumptious seafood from Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant and delicious Southern Bar-B-Q with all the fixings served by the gang from Hot Stuff Catering, you

can settle in for an outstanding Keynote Presentation by John Acorn, who is perhaps best known as the writer and host of the Canadian television series *Acorn, The Nature Nut*, a family-oriented, how-to-be-a-naturalist show. John's presentation, "Field Notes: An Odd Form of Self-Help Therapy," takes a humorous look at the somewhat serious subject of keeping a detailed personal journal. Do you keep field notes? Life lists, local lists, year lists, winter lists or yard lists? Learn how keeping a journal can help you manage your own experience and avoid the pitfalls that come with letting the lists, and the birds you "need" control your time in the field.

Menu: BBQ pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, cold slaw, rolls and Hot Stuff's famous seven-layer cookies. A big crowd pleaser is a variety of Dixie Crossroads' wild ocean shrimp with crab bites and chicken wings, beer, wine and soft drinks. Vegetarian lasagna will be available. **Beverages and water furnished by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group/Aquafina.**

Directions: From BCC, Titusville, go south on US 1 to Garden Street. Turn right on Garden Street and go under I-95 to the end of Garden at the four-way stop. Turn left on Carpenter Road and follow it to the end. Turn right on Fox Lake Road and go west to Fox Lake Park. As you enter the park, keep to the right and follow the winding road to the large pavilion at the end. There are plenty of parking spots and adequate restroom facilities.

Jan. 27, 1:30pm-5:00pm; \$20; \$5 for children under 12

****Keynote presentation only: \$10**

www.nature.org

space coast birding & wildlife festival 2008

digiscoping challenge

Bring your digital camera with you to the festival – your digiscoped bird photo may win you a prize! Got a good shot early in the festival? Don't wait! Bring it on down to the Swarovski booth and hand it over! Early submissions will be incorporated into a continuously playing PowerPoint show at the Swarovski booth, which will run throughout exhibit hours. On Saturday, pick your five best shots to submit as your entries. Those five entries will go onto the Eagle Optics web site for on-line judging. The winning image will be featured on the cover of the 2009 Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival Program. Everyone wins! Each participant will receive a free Swarovski Quick-Snap Adapter, which allows the use of a digital P&S camera with a pair of binoculars. Ten participants will be randomly selected to receive a free Swarovski Shetland Backpack, worth \$200. Let's see what you have to show!

www.eagleoptics.com

www.swarovskioptik.at

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Superior Traditional Optics

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at Competitive Prices



Mealtime during 2007 Festival. Photo by Ray Scory



Photo workshop at Black Point Drive during 2007 Festival. Photo by Ray Scory

space coast birding & wildlife festival 2008

art competition

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CORPORATION

Science/Technology
for a Sustainable Future

The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival and The Titusville Art League are proud to present the 7th Annual Art Competition, made possible through the exceptional generosity of Dynamac Corporation, which is host and sponsor of this year's event.

You are cordially invited to enter this competition, which is designed to inspire quality art forms that reflect an appreciation for the natural environments and ecosystems of Florida. Local artists, both adults and children, have an opportunity to show their works in a competitive and friendly venue.

Competition entries will be on display at Brevard Community College, Titusville Campus Gymnatorium, from Jan. 23-26. Entries will be judged on how well they express the natural environments and ecosystems of Florida. First place in each category will receive \$225, with prize monies totaling over \$1,700. There will be a Poster Competition for children. Top

prize for the winning poster is a \$50 gift certificate, with a special \$100 award given to the winner's school art department.

Competition categories include:

- Photography
- 2-dimensional art (including painting, mixed media, graphic arts and watercolors)
- 3-dimensional art (including sculpture, clay art, wood and glass)

For more information contact Candi Thorpe at 321-383-7774 or e-mail sugarfreecandi@aol.com. Visit www.nbbd.com/fly to print the rules and registration form.

<http://www.dynamac.com/clientsprojects/ksc.asp>

John Moran

keynote

A Photographer's Search for the Soul of Florida

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It's been said that to be rooted is perhaps the most deeply felt, and yet least understood need of the human soul.

Florida, of course, is a place that knows well

the rootless soul. Ours is a world-famous peninsula; a great, big siren in the sun whose considerable allure attracts a ceaseless stream of transplants. Some take the time to get to know the subtle and sensuous side of Florida. Many don't, and there's a price to be paid for this disconnect. You can no more love a place you don't know any more than you can love a person you don't know.

I believe the world is well served by having



people stay put long enough to truly know and love and appreciate their place on the planet. And Florida, where it seems that everyone has come from someplace else, is the place for me.

There are those who think of Florida as dull, a landscape somehow lacking. If mountains and waterfalls are what you seek, see your travel agent. My pictures speak of a place steeped in blackwater swamps and rivers, populated by egrets and alligators. The beauty of natural Florida is rich and potent, if you know where and when to go looking.

The world sees Florida as a place of crowded beaches and theme parks geared to accommodate the recreational needs of 18 million residents and a relentless stream of visitors. These are the places I avoid in my search for the real Florida.

I often wonder what Florida must have looked like 400 years ago. It's a mindset that serves me well as I become lost in a viewfinder fantasy.

Imagine for a moment the Florida of our forebears, the land of La Florida explored by

Ponce de Leon in his fabled search for the Fountain of Youth. Imagine the incredible sights that greeted Hernando de Soto, seeker of gold, and Pedro Menendez, founder of St. Augustine.

With limited tools and limitless resolve, these early strangers in paradise pushed forth into the interior wilderness of the peninsula in what surely was a remarkable odyssey of discovery.

Four hundred years later, real wilderness has all but vanished in Florida. And so, like the species displaced by development, I have learned to adapt. I have adapted by creating pictures that suggest the illusion of wilderness. Carefully composing my photos, I seek a Florida without billboards and sprawl, devoid of litter and cell phone towers. I have made many of my best pictures literally within sight of my car, aware of my own impact on the land, and mindful too of the myth of untainted nature I promote with my camera.

But all is not lost. Despite an astonishing assault on the aesthetic and ecological integrity of Florida, ours is a state yet rich in the abundant gifts of nature. In wonder and in gratitude, this is the vision of Florida that I seek.

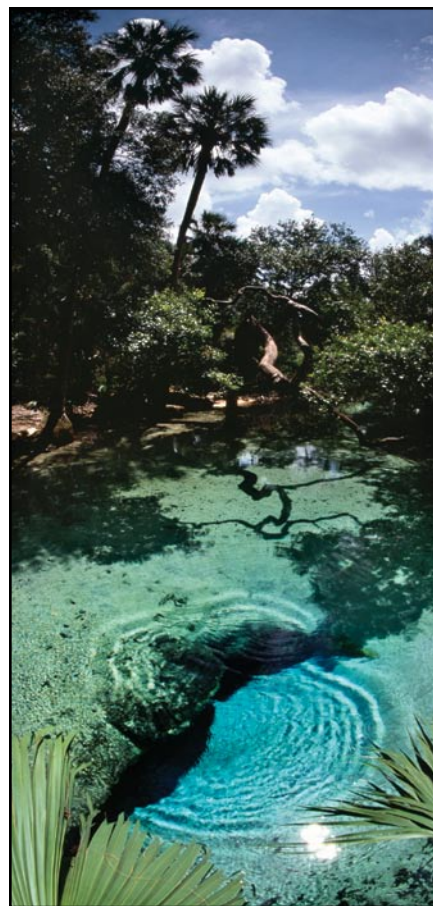
John Moran's Journal of Light: A Photographer's Search for the Soul of Florida

Keynote Presenter: John Moran

"If Florida had a Photographer Laureate, John Moran should hold that title."

- Gary Mormino, Florida Studies Program, University of South Florida

Traveling the Sunshine State with his cameras, John Moran seeks his vision of natural Florida as it must have appeared to Ponce de Leon and other early strangers in paradise. His portfolio of landscape and wildlife photography ranges from the Gulf to the Atlantic with an emphasis on Florida waters and the creatures that inhabit them. Moran's photography has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Life*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Smithsonian*, *New York Times Magazine* and on the cover of the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida*. Moran's "Journal of Light," a 20-year collection of Florida photos and essays, was published in 2004. "Journal of Light" debuted in 2005 as a major traveling exhibit of the Florida Museum of Natural History. John was the State



Paradise Found. Photo by John Moran

of Florida official nature photographer in 2006, creating a calendar on state lands for the Governor's office and the Department of Environmental Protection. Moran's ever-evolving *Journal of Light* speaking programs have been called "soulful," "exquisite," "lyrical," and "breathtaking." They offer a memorable look at a Florida seldom seen, interweaving adventure narrative, natural history, music and excellent photography.

www.JohnMoranPhoto.com

www.swarovskioptik.com

Jan. 23, 6:15pm-7:30pm: BCC Auditorium; \$10



Dance of the Cranes. Photo by John Moran

Jeff Bouton

keynote

The Joy of Birding

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Opens Unsuspected
Glimpses into Nature

Most people are drawn to birding because of a fascination with wild wonders that surround us on a daily basis. Very often, an individual can cite a precise incident or event that turned them from a curious observer to a full fledged birder! For me, a Snowy Owl within a mile of my childhood home sparked an insatiable curiosity that lasts to this day. As I stood transfixed, staring at the mythical white owl of cigar box fame, I instantly knew I'd discovered something more than just an owl on a frozen pond! I've heard others suggest that



people bird because it is easy and inexpensive. After all, you only need a pair of binoculars and a book, right?!?... These people are generally not birders, or have barely scratched the surface and are still in serious denial, as nothing could be further from the truth in reality. Birding offers constant challenges and you can make new discoveries every single day without even leaving your backyard. It is the challenging nature of birding that keeps people interested for a lifetime. If it were either simple or mundane, we would certainly bore of it quickly.

However, as naturally curious beings, most individuals soon realize they can learn much more by exploring just beyond their backyard, and then neighborhood, and town, and county and state... It's a vicious cycle full of excitement around every bend with plenty of wonderful people with which to share each exciting discovery. The whole statement about '...only needing a pair of binoculars and a book...' is also a gross simplification that bears further commentary as well. Soon after moving beyond the backyard, you will surely want to join an organized bird walk run by a local Audubon chapter, nature center, or

perhaps a birding festival. Here a well meaning tour leader will show you the view through his or her spotting scope and/or premium binoculars and you will come to realize why others are able to put a name to the brown smudge you see through your own optical equipment. Most are amazed by this revelation and it is not uncommon to hear people shuffle away muttering, "I don't understand, those are the same size as mine!" after such an event.

You will also soon realize that there is WAY more than just one book, in fact there are a lot more. A dizzying array of choices exists for field guides to the birds of North America, in addition to localized, regional guides that offer a more accurate portrayal of the birds specific to your area. Then you begin to notice the many tomes dedicated to more advanced identification of specific families or groups of birds, as well as varying bird-finding guides to help make sure you have better success while exploring new locales.

If you continue to find recreational birding fun and exciting, you will likely have no problem justifying the expense of more books, more travel and upgrading your optics to ensure maximum enjoyment in the field while pursuing your new found obsession. You may also discover the addictive nature of bird photography and/or recording bird songs. At this point your "hobby" seems much more like an addiction, and it is anything BUT inexpensive.

A few signs you may suffer as a full-fledged birding addict:

- ✓ you head into the field carrying binoculars, spotting scope, camera with telephoto lens, directional microphone and recording equipment.
- ✓ your first consideration in planning any family vacation is maximizing your potential to see new and/or interesting bird species.
- ✓ stopping in a crowded street, trail, or park and "phishing" and "squeaking" to attract a bird doesn't strike you as the least bit unusual



Backyard birding can be extremely rewarding!
(Eastern Screech-Owl chicks digiscoped in author's backyard June '07)



Most birders will inevitably want to see other local specialties they can see nearby but not in the backyard. Snail Kites, like the adult male above, are a localized Florida specialty bird. (digiscoped by Jeff Bouton, Kissimmee, July '07)



Once you've discovered the exhilaration of visiting new areas, you will likely want to see many of the world's varied habitats and spectacular wildlife species! It's a slippery slope, but well worth while. (Collared Aracari, digiscoped by Jeff Bouton, Canopy Tower, Panama, July 2007)

(despite the inquisitive expressions of those around you).

- ✓ The checkmarks used in this list make you want to go birding.

If any of this sounds familiar, welcome to my world. As addictions go, I think we share one of the best!

The Evolution of Birding

Keynote
Presenter: Jeff
Bouton

Jeff takes a light-hearted look at the birding community and the changes that have shaped his hobby over 22 years as an industry

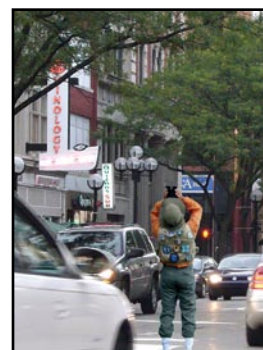
professional (a.k.a. "bins for hire"). Through anecdotes and personal reflection, Jeff will offer examples of birding etiquette to be avoided, review the latest trends in birder fashion, describe the poorly understood "levels of birding," tackle difficult questions like "Why do we bird?" and delve into the darker corners of our shared obsession, including "listing" and other controversial topics. An avid birder, Jeff currently works as the Product Specialist to the birder/naturalist markets for Leica Sport Optics, USA. He presents birding and optics seminars and guides field trips at bird festivals throughout the country and beyond.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this program are solely those of the speaker and do not reflect those of show staff. It is expected that all will laugh, so be sure to bring your sense of humor!

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/leica

www.leica-camera.us/nature_observation/

Jan. 24, 6:15pm-7:30pm: BCC Auditorium; \$10



The Oblivious Birder - no actual birders were harmed in creating this image.
Jeff Bouton

Jeffrey A. Gordon

keynote

How Much Can One Bird Weigh?

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weighs about 10 pounds. But despite their low weight, individual birds can have a huge impact on our lives.

Roger Tory Peterson, the great artist, author, naturalist, and conservationist, traced his interest in birds to a brief encounter he had with a lone Northern Flicker. That flicker, placed on a scale, might register 5 ounces. Yet that one bird was the catalyst for a life that changed the lives of millions, both human and avian. That's a powerful flicker.

Most birders have such a "spark" bird--the one that turns them from a casual observer into an aficionado, willing to endure long miles and early hours in search of new species. And over the course of a birding career, there are certain individual birds that stand out as turning points, or milestones.

They may be birds that thrill us with their rarity, their beauty, or their amazing, intricate behaviors. Some are memorable because they were so completely different than what we expected, others because they fulfilled



our expectations so completely. I can point to a Cedar Waxwing, a Pine Siskin, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird that changed the course of my life, all before I learned to drive. Often, though, a bird sighting is not just

ours alone. We share it with other birders, sometimes hundreds of others. And thus we develop a kind of community life list, a collection of watershed birding events that profoundly alter the way we seek, perceive, identify, and understand birds thereafter.

In 2002, birders participating in the Space Coast Birding Festival reported a flock of Cave Swallows at Viera Wetlands. Cave Swallows are uncommon but regular in South Florida, but had never before been seen in Brevard County. When Florida birder Murray Gardler

From a purely physical standpoint, most birds don't weigh much. A robin weighs a few ounces, and a hummingbird weighs a few grams. Even a Bald Eagle only

went to check out this report, he was stunned to find a swallow with a white rump. It turned out to be none other than a Mangrove Swallow, a tropical species never before recorded anywhere in the United States. That tiny bird caused a sensation. Many of us will never look at a flock of common Tree Swallows quite the

same way again--we'll always be watching for one with a white rump, even though we know the chances are still slim. Moreover, Viera Wetlands, which is at base a wastewater treatment plant, has become hallowed ground, in a way. A visit there, always interesting, takes on an extra dimension--the place has history. A track record. Sometimes a bird need not be rare at all to cause a sensation. Witness Pale Male, the Red-tailed Hawk that took up residence in Manhattan's Central Park in 1991. Merely by positioning himself in a place where millions of people would see him, this one bird became a true celebrity, even inspiring a tidal wave of protest against the condo board that tried to remove his nest.

Conservationists often decry the tendency of people to place too much emphasis on the lives of individual animals, while caring less than they should about entire species, even whole ecosystems. But I think this phenomenon of "spark" birds shows that there can be a positive side to this type of personal, individual attachment. Because Roger Tory Peterson saw that one flicker, millions of flickers and other birds have had their habitats conserved. Because of a wayward swallow in Florida, a sewage pond has become a tourist destination. And who knows what ripples may spread from the thousands of people who went to visit the Boat Pond in Central Park and wound up peering into the eye of wildness.

Of course, one never knows in advance when a bird is going to be someone's spark, or an entire community's. And this is a major



Seaside Sparrow. Photo by Jeff Gordon



Bluebird. Photo by Jeff Gordon

reason I think it's so important that we keep planting our yards with native plants that feed and house local wildlife, and that we do everything we can to preserve the habitat we have left. And why we need birding events ranging in scale from the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival on down to elementary school field trips.

In these ways, we set the stage for people and birds to encounter each other in a way that can truly change the course of lives. Pretty heavy stuff, for such featherweight creatures.

The 10 Greatest Birds of the Last 30 Years

Keynote Presenter: Jeffrey A. Gordon

Which birds have changed North American birders as a community, and left their mark on birding as a sport and science? Looking back over three decades, author and tour leader Jeffrey Gordon tells the stories of birds that made a difference to us all, whether we personally saw them or not. From the Newburyport Ross's Gull to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Jeff will share his selection of ten birds that changed the birding world. Jeffrey Gordon is a writer and naturalist who lives in Lewes, Delaware. He serves as Field Editor for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and is a frequent speaker at various birding and nature festivals around the U.S. Jeff is a field representative for Leica Sports Optics and with his wife, Liz, chaperones the American Birding Association's youth competition birding team, the ABA/Leica Tropicbirds.

www.jeffreyagordon.com

www.ronjons.com

Jan. 25, 6:15pm-7:30pm: BCC Auditorium; \$10

Kevin T. Karlson

keynote

Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration

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Migration of wild birds is arguably one of the most exciting and awe-inspiring spectacles in the world today. Anyone fortunate enough to witness a protracted movement of 100,000 seabirds in a single November day near Cape May NJ, or stand in awe under 400,000 Broad-winged Hawks in one day in Veracruz, Mexico, will attest to an indescribable emotion that touches the core of our very being.



Standing silent with eyes skyward and mouths agape while deafening calls of countless Snow Geese or other flocking birds fly past may well rekindle primal feelings that our ancestors experienced thousands of years ago, as these familiar migrants continue to warmer winter locations. I have personally felt unexplained emptiness in late fall after realizing that migration has subsided, and birds that I have been enjoying for months have left me behind to undertake dangerous journeys to wild, unknown locations.

Migration is basically any regular movement of creatures between geographic areas, typically between breeding and nonbreeding sites. Most birds in North America migrate in some capacity, although distance traveled varies greatly. Some move only short distances each year to preferred nesting habitats, and spend winter months anywhere from a few miles to several hundred miles away in more productive feeding areas. Others cross several continents and fly over 18,000 miles each year in their bi-annual migrations, much of it over vast ocean waters.

Because of relatively light weight due to hollow bone structure, and evolution of aerodynamically advanced feathered wing design, birds are able to fly long distances during migratory periods. While flight patterns within their breeding and

wintering grounds might appear graceful and almost effortless, long distance migration often requires physiological changes that stagger our imaginations. Some birds actually double their body weight by non-stop feeding of several weeks to a month, and use this fat reserve to carry them on unbelievable non-stop journeys.

Can you imagine doubling your body weight by continuously eating for several weeks and then migrating over six thousand miles over four days without stopping, burning up all that extra weight without benefit of food, water or sleep! This type of physiological feat, performed each year by Bar-tailed Godwits, approaches miracle status and is well beyond human physical abilities or comprehension.

While all migration involves regular movements between different locations, there are a surprising number of different types of migration. On a broad scale, about half the species of birds (around 338 species) in 37 North American families migrate each year to tropical locations south of the Tropic of Cancer for the winter. These are considered long-distance neo-tropical migrants. The rest either complete short to mid-range movements or do not migrate at all.

The most widely known type of migration occurs on a seasonal basis, where individuals arrive on the breeding grounds in spring and travel to warmer climates at the end of their breeding cycles. Seasonal migration can either be complete, where virtually the entire population migrates; or partial, where only part of the population migrates, depending upon food supply and climatic factors. Other types of migration are explained, with specific examples, in my talk, 'Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration.'

Life in the Balance

Over generations, birds have formed a tenuous balance with nature regarding reproductive success versus death that occurs during migration. In our rapidly changing world, this



Sharp-shinned Hawk during migration. Photo by Kevin Karlson

balance has been seriously compromised by unabated development and continued loss of critical breeding and migratory habitats. It is our job as stewards of our land to protect the health and balance of our world by understanding these types of natural phenomena and enacting safeguards from irresponsible growth and development. Our world is a wonderful, fascinating place to live, and deserving of our protection for future generations.

Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration

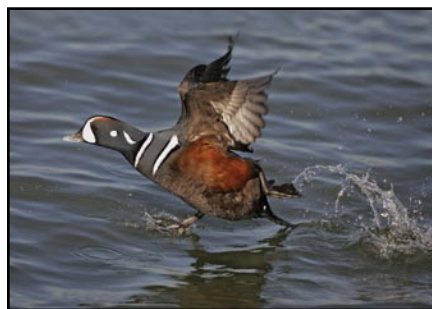
Keynote Presenter: Kevin T. Karlson

Nothing is more fascinating in the avian world than migratory movements of birds. From 20,000-mile annual journeys of Arctic Terns to 1,200-mile non-stop flights of Blackpoll Warblers, there are still many unanswered questions concerning the "how, why, where and when" of bird migration. This show begins with a review of different types of bird migration, giving general and specific examples of each in photos and words. Kevin then highlights different bird families and selected species that perform amazing feats of physical endurance each year during migration. Finally, interesting facts will be shared that maintain the mystique of bird migration. Several short interludes put to music will allow beautiful action images to enhance the migratory experience. Kevin has been a wildlife photographer for 26 years and active as a birder for 28 years. He has traveled from the wilds of the Alaskan Arctic to the rainforests of South America to photograph birds. He recently completed an innovative book called "The Shorebird Guide" with co-authors Michael O'Brien and Richard Crossley, released by Houghton Mifflin Publishers in April 2006. This comprehensive field guide stresses a new and exciting concept of field identification based initially upon physical impressions.

www.kevinkarlsonphotography.com

www.reliant.com/corporate

Jan. 26, 6:15pm-7:30pm: BCC Auditorium; \$10



Harlequin Duck taking off. Photo by Kevin Karlson

John Acorn

keynote

Field Notes: An Odd Form of Self-Help Therapy

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Working to Preserve
Earth's Diversity

Do you keep field notes? Life lists, local lists, year lists, winter lists, or yard lists? My own records date back to 1974, but I've never been one for listing. I prefer a sort of detailed personal journal. Recently, while reading through my 2000-plus pages of field notes, and reconstructing my life lists in the process, I discovered some wonderful things.



Birding is a way of learning about nature, but it can also be a way of learning about yourself.

First, I now know how many species of birds I have seen. I'm going to keep the number to myself—it is large enough to qualify me as a serious birding addict, but not so big as to set any records.

Second, I have documented a few interesting things along the way. The decline of the Greater Sage Grouse in southern Alberta is clear from my own records, as is the increase in American White Pelicans in our part of the world. A few rare bird sightings pop up here and there in my notes as well. For example, how could I forget the Pacific Loon I saw with my television crew, off the coast of Maui in Hawaii?

But third, and most importantly, I also know some things about the way my own mind works. For example, I have always assumed that I have a pretty good memory. But I don't. This is both good and bad, as you

might imagine. As I reviewed my birding history, I came to realize that a large part of my own motivation in birding has to do with managing my own experience, and avoiding the pitfalls that come with letting the lists, and the birds I "need" control my time in the field. By keeping detailed field notes, I seem to have achieved my objective. Mind you, I also considered some species "lifers" multiple times (I'll be honest, I celebrate the Nuttall's Woodpecker not twice but three times!), having forgotten my earlier encounters. But I have also kept the experience of being a naturalist "fresh" and intentionally free from disappointment, as it should be.

Field Notes: An Odd Form of Self-Help Therapy

Keynote Presenter: John Acorn

Do you keep field notes? Or are you obsessed with amassing life lists, local lists, year lists, winter lists, or yard lists? Like John, you, too can learn to manage your own experience, and avoid the pitfalls that come with letting the lists, and the birds you "need" control your time in the field. Keeping detailed



A good bird is worth a photo, but also worth recording in your notes! Photo by John Acorn

field notes can help you achieve this noble objective and keep the experience of being a naturalist "fresh" and intentionally free from disappointment, as it should be. A prolific writer, John Acorn has written 16 books, including many well-received field guides. John is perhaps best known as the writer and host of the television series "Acorn, The Nature Nut," a family-oriented, how-to-be-a-naturalist show. He also hosted "Twits and Pishers," a travel show for bird watchers.

www.acornthenaturenut.net

www.nature.org

Jan. 27, 3:00pm-4:15pm: Fox Lake Park Pavilion; \$10



You will document interesting things like my own observation of the increase in American White Pelicans in southern Alberta. Photo by Ray Scory

field trips

Festival field trips are designed to showcase the best regional wildlife sites as well as the exceptional research and preservation work being conducted in this area. Unless otherwise noted, all trips depart from the traffic circle in front of the Gymnatorium at Brevard Community College, Titusville Campus. Due to the importance of arriving at designated sites by certain times, vehicles will leave promptly when indicated. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Please note that in order to keep the Festival as cost efficient as possible for our guests, some of the field trips and workshops have been changed to car pools instead of utilizing hired transportation services.

NOTE: Central Florida is very "birdy" and many will be seen en route. Stay alert and be prepared to look quickly when someone calls out a passing bird.

Specialty Tours

Wild Side of the Kennedy Space Center

Trip Leaders: Carlton Hall (Dynamac), Sarah Linney and Susan Epps



Join Dynamac Manager of Ecological Programs, Carlton Hall, for a bus journey through the working launch complex of the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and into

the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Learn how KSC, working with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, sets the standard for how nature and technology can co-exist peacefully and benefit one another. Carlton will talk about the ongoing ecological studies at KSC related to such areas as fire ecology, remote sensing and global climate change. Some endangered wildlife you might see include the Florida manatee, Wood Stork and the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay. The tour will travel along parts of the nation's most biologically diverse estuary, the Indian River Lagoon and Banana River, Florida scrub, and pine flatwoods habitat.

For security reasons at the Kennedy Space Center, we are restricted to offering this trip to U.S. citizens only.

www.KennedySpaceCenter.com

www.dynamac.com/clients/projects/ksc.asp

Departs ONLY from KSC Visitors Complex. Pre-registration is a must!

Jan. 27, 9:30am-12:30pm: Limited to 45 registrants; \$40

Plants (and other things) of the North Brevard Area

Trip Leaders: Jim Stahl and Jay Barnhart

The diverse habitats in and around Brevard County include mature deciduous/semi-tropical forests, pine flatwoods, oak-palm hammocks, cypress swamps, freshwater marshes, brackish lagoons, lakes, scrub, sedge meadows, coastal dunes and ruderal (disturbed). With so many habitats, the region supports numerous plant species - majestic trees, shrubs, beautiful wildflowers, grasses and sedges and ferns. On this trip we will observe and discuss many species of plants and their habitats, plus anything else (birds,

reptiles, butterflies and other insects) that we might come across. The sites we will visit will be selected during scouting trips just prior to the field trip so that areas with the best blooming plants will be on the itinerary. We will carpool from the campus gymnasium, and a moderate amount of walking on dry trails will be required.

A Wildflowers Seminar will precede the field trip, 8:00am-9:15am.

Meet in front of the BCC Gymnatorium at 9:30AM to organize the car pool. Please bring money for lunch at one of Titusville's fine historic downtown dining establishments.

Jan. 23 & 25, 9:30am-3:30pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Plants and Their Uses through History from Ancient to Modern Times

Trip Leaders: Jay Barnhart and Jim Stahl

Please see the description of this trip in the Additional Activities section of this program.

Jan. 26, 12:00pm-2:30pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Historical Sites of Canaveral National Seashore

Trip Leaders: John Stiner (US Park Service), Rachel Wentz (Florida Public Archaeology Network) and David Hartgrove

When European explorers touched the shores

of the New World in the late 15th century, the northern areas of the Space Coast had been inhabited for thousands of years by indigenous peoples who were called the Timucua. They left behind a wealth of archaeological sites and resources, many of which have yet to be discovered. Among these resources are some of the largest and most extensive prehistoric shell mounds in the nation. Many were so high they were used as major navigational landmarks during early colonial times. More than 100 Pre-Columbian mounds lie within the boundaries of Canaveral National Seashore. This field trip visits three of them and the El Dora Statehouse. One of the oldest archaeological sites in Florida, Seminole Rest is a 4,000-year-old Timucuan shell midden located on the Oak Hill waterfront. Named for its resemblance to a giant turtle and used as a navigational aid for centuries, Turtle Mound shows up on Spanish maps as early as the 16th century. A climb to the top reveals a scenic panorama of ocean, estuary and beaches. Castle Windy is a smaller mound that lies in the shadows of thick coastal maritime hammock right along the edge of Mosquito Lagoon. Birding can sometimes be quite good along the trails to and on the mounds as middens provide resting space and feeding areas for Neotropical migratory songbirds. The El Dora Statehouse is a restored 1800s pioneer home that stands as the last remnant of an old Florida waterway community. This is a great trip combining historical sights and coastal birds.

*John Stiner's services are provided at no charge by the National Park Service.

www.nbbd.com/godo/cns

www.nps.gov/cana

www.flpublicarchaeology.org

Please bring money for lunch at J.B.'s Fish Camp on Mosquito Lagoon.

Jan. 25, 8:30am-5:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; \$50

Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Walk

Trip Leaders: Ray Ashton, Jay Barnhart, Jim Stahl and Dean Pettit

This Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands property consists mostly of scrubby flatwoods and a large depression marsh. It is adjacent to the Titusville



Photo of Ponce Inlet Lighthouse by Ray Scory

audubon center for birds of prey

Take a special "Behind the Scenes" tour of Florida Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey (ACBOP). The largest raptor rehabilitation facility east of the Mississippi, the ACBOP specializes in the rescue, medical care, rehabilitation and release of more than 600 sick, injured and orphaned raptors each year, including Bald Eagles, hawks, owls, kites, falcons and vultures. Recognized nationally as one of the premier facilities for Bald Eagle care, the center has rehabilitated and released 289 eagles back to the Florida skies since opening in 1979. Many of the non-releasable birds are housed at the center in large aviaries or in the open-air "bird garden," where the glove-trained education birds spend their days. This state-of-the-art facility includes a lab and x-ray equipment to aid in diagnosing and treating patients, a clinic equipped with indoor caging to accommodate raptors of all sizes, rehabilitation mews and three flight barns. In addition, there is extensive native landscaping and a butterfly garden to enjoy. Education is an important mission of all Audubon Centers. Take advantage of an opportunity to get up close and personal with our nation's symbol, the majestic Bald Eagle, or to marvel at the remarkable ears of a Barred Owl.

You must drive yourself. The Center is near Orlando at 1101 Audubon Way in Maitland. Call 407-644-0190 for directions.

www.audubonofflorida.org/who_centers_CBOP.html

**Jan. 24 and 27, 9:00am-11:30am;
\$5/person - Pay at the Center**

what to wear

January is typically Florida's coldest month, however temperatures can fluctuate wildly. You can expect the average temps to be in the 40s and 50s at night and the 60s and 70s in the daytime. Temps can dip into the 30s at night and never leave the 50s during the daytime after the passage of a strong cold front. Rain is very scarce in January however a passing cold front may be accompanied by a squall line. It is best to plan to layer your clothing. It can be very cold in the morning at sunrise and then warm up nicely during the day. It will be chilly out on the water on kayak and boat trips, so dress warmly. Be sure to bring rain gear if you are going on the pelagic trip! More than likely, the wind will blow and spray will fly. It has been our past experience that the Gymnasium can be on the chilly side too. Bring a sweater or a jacket if you are an exhibitor.

field trips

Wellfield, which also supports scrub, extending the protection area and enhancing the Sanctuary. Protected plant and wildlife species documented on site include Florida Scrub-Jay, indigo snake, gopher tortoise and *Dicerandra thincicola*, a rare scrub mint known only to occur in the northern region of Brevard County. Your guides for this hike will be Ray Ashton, Executive Director for the Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative; avid wild mushroom hobbyist Jay Barnhart; retired biologist Jim Stahl and Dean Pettit, Chair of the Titusville Environmental Commission, who spearheaded the establishment of a multi-use recreational trail through the classic scrub habitat at the Titusville Wellfield.

www.ashtonbiodiversity.org

www.eelbrevard.com

www.fnps.org

Meet at the entrance to the Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary

Directions: From I-95 take SR-50 Exit 215 east 3 miles. Turn right on Key Largo Drive, go 0.4 miles and turn right on Karen Drive. Go less than 0.1 mile, turn right and go to the end of Melissa Drive. Enter on foot.

From US-Hwy 1 go west 0.7 miles on SR-50. Turn left on Key Largo Drive—follow directions above.

Jan. 24, 9:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; Free

Ancient & Modern Mariners of the Deep

Trip Leaders: Duane DeFreese (Hubbs Sea World) and David Hartgrove

Join Hubbs Sea World VP of Research Dr. Duane DeFreese for a look at some of the world's oldest and more recent mariners. Inhabiting earth for 150 million years, sea turtles have long intrigued people, figuring prominently in the mythology and folklore of many cultures. This fascinating trip will visit two sites and include some birding time also. The Marine Science Center is a rehabilitation center for injured marine turtles as well as an important environmental education center. It includes turtle tanks; a 5,000-gallon artificial reef and aquarium; manatee, whale and fish exhibits; a wet/dry lab; nature trails through maritime hammock and boardwalks over coastal dunes; as well as a brand new seabird rehabilitation sanctuary. Completed in 1887, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is a National Historic Landmark. At 175 feet, it is the second tallest lighthouse in the U.S. and the tallest open to the public. A climb to the top reveals a breathtaking view of inlet, estuary

and beaches. With a glorious beacon shining over 16 nautical miles, maritime museum and lens restoration shop featuring the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse first-order Fresnel lens, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse offers a tremendous opportunity to learn of our great maritime heritage.

www.hswri.org

www.ccturtle.org

www.marinesciencecenter.com

www.ponceinlet.org

Please bring money for lunch at the beautiful Inlet Harbor Seafood Restaurant.

Jan. 26, 8:00am-5:00pm: Limited to 27 registrants; \$60

Birding and Wildlife Tours

South Brevard County

Trip Leaders: David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson) and Kim Risen (NatureScape Ventures)

Jan. 23: with Cameron Cox (Nikon)

Jan. 24: with Mike Freiberg (Nikon)

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This field trip will leave early in order to observe Red-cockaded Woodpeckers leaving their nest cavities at sunrise. First stop is the St. Sebastian River Buffer Preserve State Park. This 22,000-acre site serves as a home to many of the sought-after pinewoods specialties. Six families of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and more than thirty families of Florida Scrub-Jays call the preserve their home. Bachman's Sparrows are abundant, though difficult to see in the winter months. Brown-headed Nuthatches are often encountered among the mixed-species feeding flocks. There will be a hayride through the interior of the preserve where David, who works at the preserve, will give you the inside scoop on how the preserve is managed for these special birds and their habitats. After lunch we will visit the T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area, which features ten impoundments managed intensively for waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds and a semi-permanent flooded marsh. An observation tower overlooking Lake Goodwin offers unobstructed views of surrounding marshlands. Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, Purple Gallinule and Limpkin are often seen here. This site may require some walking to get to where the birds are.

www.nikonsportoptics.com

Please bring money for lunch, which is served at Marsh Landing Restaurant

located in the historic Fellsmere Estates Building.

Jan. 23 & 24, 4:30am-4:30pm: Limited to 19 registrants; \$65

Lake Monroe Conservation Area

Trip Leaders: Lorne Malo and Maria Zondervan (SJRWMD), Luis Segura (Trogon Tours) and Ramiro Yabar (Amazonia Lodge)

St Johns River Water Management District Biologist Lorne Malo will lead this walk into the Lake Monroe CA. This conservation area contains 90% of the floodplain of Lake Monroe and covers more than 3 miles of St Johns River and Lake Monroe shoreline. Wetlands make up 94% of the conservation area. The fields, marshes, hammocks, flatwoods and scrub at this site are good for marsh birds, warblers and sparrows. Numerous wading birds and raptors are expected along with deer and alligators. Wild Turkey, Florida Scrub-Jay, Bachman's, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, American Bittern, Wood Stork, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Bald Eagle, Short-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Crested Caracara, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Limpkin and Sandhill Crane have all been recorded here. This is a four-mile walk; some of which may pass through mud and standing water.

<http://nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html>

Meet in front of the Gymnasium at 6:00am in order to make car pool arrangements.

Jan. 23, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; \$20

Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area

Trip Leaders: Casey Dorsch and Mark Kiser (FWCC) and Roy Book

Jan. 23: with Xavier Munoz (Neblina Forest Birding Tours)

Jan. 24: with Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)

Jan. 25: with Ramiro Yabar (Amazonia Lodge)

Shaped by alternating cycles of fire and flood, Tosohatchee WMA is a mosaic of marshes, swamps, pine flatwoods and oak hammocks. Deep inside the reserve, Jim Creek flows through some of the last remaining virgin cypress swamps in all of Florida. Bordering 19 miles of the St. Johns River in eastern Orange County, the reserve is named for Tootoosahatchee Creek, which flows through its northern portion. The abundance of wildlife must have been attractive to the Native Americans who lived at Tosohatchee long before the arrival of the first Europeans. Mounds within the reserve indicate that Timucuan Indians occupied the area for several centuries. Seminoles

lived here, too, fiercely defying the U.S. government's attempts to eradicate them. The Tosohatchee marshes are feeding areas for wading birds and, during winter months, host large numbers of migrating waterfowl. Forested uplands support deer, bobcats, gray foxes, wild turkeys, woodpeckers, hawks, owls and songbirds. Some of the threatened and endangered species found at the reserve include Bald Eagle, Wood Stork, eastern indigo snake, gopher tortoise and, on rare occasions, the Florida panther. Birds of interest include Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Red-headed Woodpecker and Florida Sandhill Crane. Tosohatchee is a great site for those interested in butterflies and dragonflies, especially in late summer and fall when wildflowers and native grasses are in full bloom.

www.myfwc.com/recreation/tosohatchee

Jan. 23, 24, & 25, 6:00am-12:00pm, Limited to 26 registrants; \$40

Viera Wetlands

Leaders: Dave Freeland

Jan. 23, 25 & 26: with Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)

Jan. 27: with Paul Lehman and Chris Wood (WINGS Birding Tours)

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Viera Wetlands is a series of connected ponds created to treat wastewater from the Central Brevard area. Since opening in 2001, this site has rapidly gained recognition as a premier birding destination. During fall and winter, a remarkable diversity of bird species uses these wetlands and nearby prairie hammocks and cabbage palm savannahs. An active Bald Eagle nest is visible from the dike road, two families of Crested Caracaras maintain territories around the wetlands, and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks are regularly seen. Thousands of wintering ducks concentrate here, including Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mottled Duck, Hooded and Red-breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck. Ponds on the north side of the complex are productive for shorebirds when water levels are low, especially during migration. Since opening in 2000, Viera Wetlands has been visited by several rarities, including the first North American record of Mangrove Swallow.

www.pepsi.com

www.spacecoastbirding.com/articles/FirstMangroveSwallow.pdf

www.brevardcounty.us/environmental_management/VieraWetlands-Home.cfm

Jan. 23, 25, 26, & 27, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; \$40

Marl Bed Flats, Lake Jesup Conservation Area

Trip Leaders: Roy Halpin

Jan. 23: with Susan Epps, Debra Shearwater (Shearwater Journeys) and Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventure)

Jan. 24: with Paul Lehman (WINGS Birding Tours), Xavier Munoz (Neblina Forest Birding Tours) and Ramiro Yabar (Amazonia Lodge)

Jan. 26: with Roy Book and Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventures)

Jan. 27: with Jeff Gordon, Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)

This property is located on the north shore of Lake Jesup in Seminole County near Sanford. The Marl Bed Tract is comprised of a live hammock on the high ground near the entrance of the site and descends into a large area of unimproved pasture/wet prairie with scattered cabbage palms within the lake's floodplain. Levees that once ringed the property for water control have been backfilled into their adjacent canals to restore the site's hydrology. Marsh vegetation fronts the lake edge and Marl Bed Slough. Cattle are grazed on the property to control vegetation growth. This tract was a popular stopover last fall and winter for a number of uncommon species that included a male Vermilion Flycatcher, and Le Conte's, Henslow's and Lincoln's Sparrows among the large flocks of Savannah and Swamp Sparrows. Wilson's Snipe were also numerous with smaller numbers of Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, and a few Black-necked Stilt and American Woodcock. Additional species that may be found in the oak hammock include Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, and Orange-crowned, Black-and-white, and Yellow-throated Warblers. In the pastures you may see Great Horned Owl, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Sedge and Marsh Wren, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. The marshes and lake are home for most of the common waders, plus Sora, King and Virginia Rails, Purple Gallinules, bitterns, night-herons, Limpkin and Sandhill Crane. Offshore you may see American White Pelican, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. Water

field trips

levels can be highly variable and will influence the types and numbers of birds found. Be prepared to walk two to three miles, some of which may be through mud and standing water.

<http://nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html>

Meet in front of the Gymnatorium at 6:00am in order to make car pool arrangements.

Jan. 23, 24, 26, & 27, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 Registrants; \$20

Black Rails and the St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge

Trip leaders: Mike Legare and Dorn Whitmore (USFWS) and Michael O'Brien (Victor Emanuel Nature Tours)

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Think Green.
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Join Mike Legare, US Fish and Wildlife Service Lead Biologist at Merritt Island NWR, on a sunset hayride through the pristine salt marsh habitat of the restricted St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge. At various stops through the marsh, Mike will talk about Black Rails, their secretive habits, salt marsh habitat and the research he conducted on these elusive marsh birds at this site. The

marshes of the St Johns River west and northwest of Titusville are the only marshes along the St Johns where Black Rails are found within the river's floodplains. That's because saline water seeps to the surface from a layer of salty water that lies above the Florida aquifer in this area, creating marine-type habitats in the midst of a huge freshwater floodplain. These biological islands are home to the same vegetation that you will find in the salt marshes of the Merritt Island NWR. As the sun sets on the marsh horizon, Mike will stop at different places and play tapes to try to entice Black Rails to call.

Dress warmly as it will be chilly out on the marsh. Wear old shoes and bring water.

Please meet in front of the Gymnatorium at 4:00pm to compress into a car pool that utilizes as few cars as possible.

Jan. 23, 24, & 25, 4:00pm - 7:00pm: Limited to 20 registrants; \$25

Zellwood/Lake Apopka

Trip Leaders:

Jan. 24: Jim Peterson (SJRWMD), Wes Biggs (Florida Nature Tours), Jeff Gordon and Andy Wraithmell (Ventures Birding Tours)

Jan. 25: Pam Bowen (SJRWMD), Alvaro

Jaramillo (Field Guides), Adam Kent (FWCC) and Paul Lehman (WINGS Birding Tours)

Jan. 26: Gian Basili (SJRWMD), Andy Bankert, Paul Lehman (WINGS Birding Tours) and David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson)

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Despite its long history of great birding, this area may well be one of the very best, but least-known birding areas on the entire Eastern Seaboard. Thousands of acres of

marshes on the north shore of Lake Apopka were drained back in the 1940s, creating huge muck farms that produced row-crops. A series of dikes and canals were created, and the farms fed millions for more than a half-century. Common farming practices required that the fields be flooded each summer to kill nematodes. Over a period of several weeks the water was drained back into the lake, creating an ideal habitat for migrating shorebirds at exactly the right time. By the early 1950s birders began to visit the area and always received great cooperation and

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understanding from the land owners, from the early farmers to the St. Johns River Water Management District which purchased the farmlands in the late 1990s in order to restore wetland habitat and improve water quality in Lake Apopka.

The summer of 1998 was the last time that the farmers flooded the fields, and many of them remained flooded when the water management district took ownership. By that fall a unique habitat consisting of impoundments of varying depths and fields of mud and weeds was created. Shorebirds that would have left in previous years remained into winter and were joined by unprecedented numbers of waterfowl and, in the fields of weeds, large numbers of sparrows, flycatchers and other passerines. Foreseeing the possibilities, Wes Biggs assembled a team of birders, and the first Zellwood/Apopka Christmas Bird Count tallied an amazing 174 species with another 10 seen during count week; a new North American high count for an inland location. As the winter progressed, however, a major bird die-off took place. Apparently years of farming left residual pesticides in the soils, and fish that moved from canals into the flooded fields accumulated toxic levels of pesticides in their tissues. Unfortunately fish-eating birds, such as American White Pelicans began dying off, a result of pesticide-induced toxicosis. Flooded areas were drained and the area was closed to the public. Years of research have resulted in a better understanding of how these pesticides behave in wetland systems, and how to clean-up problematic areas and create high quality wetland habitats.

About one half of the area remains closed to the general public, but more areas will be opened in the next few years. Despite the area having limited access, the SJRWMD has been very supportive of the birding community, allowing continued access under special circumstances. For example, they encourage people to participate in their monthly bird surveys, and provide a great deal of help each year with the Christmas Bird Count which still records 150 or more species each year. Highlights in past years include as many as 13 species of sparrows, including rarities such as LeConte's and Clay-colored, and large numbers of flycatchers. More than 100 Western Kingbirds and up to a dozen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have been seen at a huge winter kingbird roost. In recent years Cassin's, Tropical and Gray Kingbirds have shown up as well as numbers of Ash-throated Flycatchers. SJRWMD staff has also made special accommodations for viewing rare birds when

they are found. The first state records of Rough-legged Hawk and Eurasian Kestrel are the best examples. The first state record of Ferruginous Hawk, second state record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-cheeked Pintail and Ross' Goose are among some of the other rarities that have been found there over the years.

www.eagleoptics.com

www.nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html

Price includes a box lunch.

Jan. 24, 25, & 26; 5:00am-5:00pm: Limited to 30 registrants; \$70

Little-Big Econ State Forest

Trip Leaders: Lorne Malo (SJRWMD) with Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Tower), Chris Wood (WINGS Birding Tours) and David Hartgrove

St Johns River Water Management District Biologist Lorne Malo will lead this trip to visit two sections of the state forest, starting at the Barr Street entrance of the Demetree Tract with a hike through open fields and riparian woodlands to the Econlockhatchee River. Here Sedge Wren, Hermit Thrush, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Parula, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Green Warbler, and Northern Oriole might be found.

Next we'll visit the Kilbee Tract portion of the State Forest along the St. Johns River in search of raptors, marsh birds, shorebirds, waterfowl and songbirds. Approximately 160 species of birds have been recorded at the Little-Big Econ State Forest. Walking distance for combined sites will be about five miles; some of which may pass through mud and standing water.

<http://nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html>

Meet in front of the Gymnasium at 6:00am in order to make car pool arrangements.

Jan. 24, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; \$20

North Brevard Hot Spots

Trip Leaders: Doug Stuckey

Jan. 23: with Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy Tower), Adam Kent (FWCC) and Murray Gardler

Jan. 24: with Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventures), Luis Segura (Trogon Tours) and Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

Jan. 25: with Susan Epps, Debra Shearwater (Shearwater Journeys) and Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours);

Jan. 26: with Susan Epps and Debra Shearwater (Shearwater Journeys)

Northern Brevard County has much to offer in well-known birding sites like Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral

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National Seashore. We also have productive, yet lesser-known areas - Seminole Ranch, Hatbill Park, Buck Lake, Salt Lake, Scottsmoor Landing, the F.I.N.D. Site, Hammock Road

and others. Along with the usual wading birds, shorebirds and waterfowl, various woodpeckers, Painted Bunting, Loggerhead Shrike, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Bald Eagle, Wood Stork, Florida Scrub-Jay and Sandhill Crane are possible. Hop on the bus for a trip through the pines and palmettos of North Brevard's scrublands and wetlands to learn about some of our favorite, not so famous hotspots. This trip had the highest species count of any festival field trip last year with 102 species accumulated on three field trips. Specific sites to be visited will be determined during pre-festival scouting trips. This field trip requires some moderate walking.

www.floridatoday.com

www.nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html

Jan. 23, 24, 25, & 26, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 25 registrants; \$40

Central Florida Specialties

Trip Leaders: Wes Biggs (Florida Nature Tours), Dave Goodwin and Andy Wraithmell (Ventures Birding Tours)

Jan. 25: with Mike Freiberg (Nikon)

Jan. 26: with Cameron Cox (Nikon)

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The extensive wetland and prairie complexes of Central Florida host a variety of wading and waterbirds including almost all of Florida's herons and egrets, Least and American

Bittern, Glossy and White Ibis, Wood Stork, Limpkin, King Rail, Anhinga, grebes, shorebirds and various ducks as well as a unique suite of birds that includes the Sandhill Crane, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Mottled Duck and Grasshopper Sparrow. This tour will start at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in the early morning hours to try to catch a glimpse of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Other pineland species expected at Three Lakes include Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler and Eastern Bluebird. White-tailed Kite is a possibility. Next stop is Overstreet Landing on Lake Kissimmee to look for Whooping Cranes that have been reintroduced to the Kissimmee River prairie. Overstreet Landing is a good place to look

field trips

for Snail Kite, Bald Eagle and various raptors, Mottled Duck and other waterfowl, Long-billed Dowitcher, Purple Gallinule and Limpkin. Crested Caracara, Eastern Bluebird, American Kestrel, Sandhill Crane and Wild Turkey may be seen along the road. After lunch, a trip to Lake Lizzie Park will hopefully produce Red-headed Woodpecker and Florida Scrub-Jay. If time allows, other possible sites to be visited include Whaley's Landing, Cypress Lake and Lake Kissimmee.

www.nikonsportoptics.com
www.whoopingcrane.com
www.foreverflorida.com

Price includes lunch at Forever Florida wilderness preserve.

Jan. 25 & 26, 5:00am-5:00pm: Limited to 42 registrants; \$70

Kayak the Lake Monroe Conservation Area

Trip Sponsor: A Day Away Outfitters and Kayak Tours

Trip Leaders: Lorne Malo and Maria Zondervan (SJRWMD) and Mike Mahan (A Day Away Outfitters)

Join St. Johns River Water Management District biologists Lorne Malo and Maria Zondervan for a birding adventure by water. Meet at Cameron Wright Park before dawn as

wading birds begin to rise from their roosts and fly overhead en route to their feeding areas. From there we'll paddle northward on the St. Johns River to Thornhill Lake and Brickyard Slough within the Lake Monroe CA. This trip is recommended for beginning and experienced paddlers in good physical shape. Numerous wading birds and raptors are expected. American Bittern, Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Short-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Barred and Barn Owl, Purple Gallinule, King and Virginia Rail, Limpkin and Sandhill Crane are possible. If the weather is too rough for kayaking, we will hike instead on higher ground in search of Wild Turkey, Florida Scrub-Jay, raptors, marsh birds, warblers and sparrows. Please bring water and snacks.

www.adayawaykayaktours.com

www.nbbd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html

Meet at Seminole County's Cameron Wight Park at 6:30am at SR 46 and the Lake Jessup Bridge.

Directions: From I-95 and SR 46, go west on SR 46 for 21.7 miles. The park is on the northwest side of the bridge. Drive time is about 30 minutes from BCC Titusville.

You must personally register with A Day Away Kayak Outfitters, 321-268-2655.

Jan. 25, 6:30am-11:30am: Limited to 20 registrants; With boat rental: \$25.00/person; Bring your own boat \$15.00/person

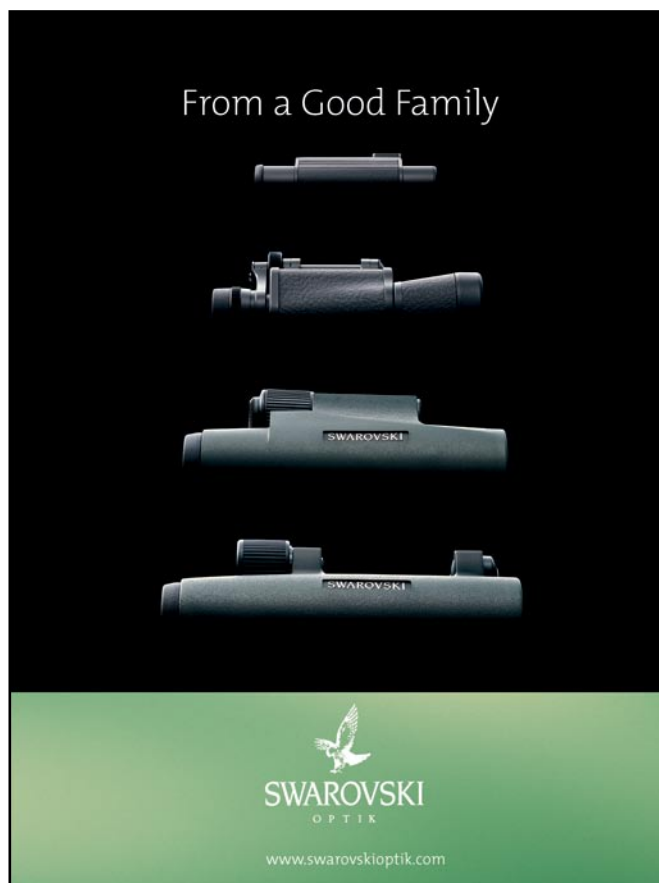
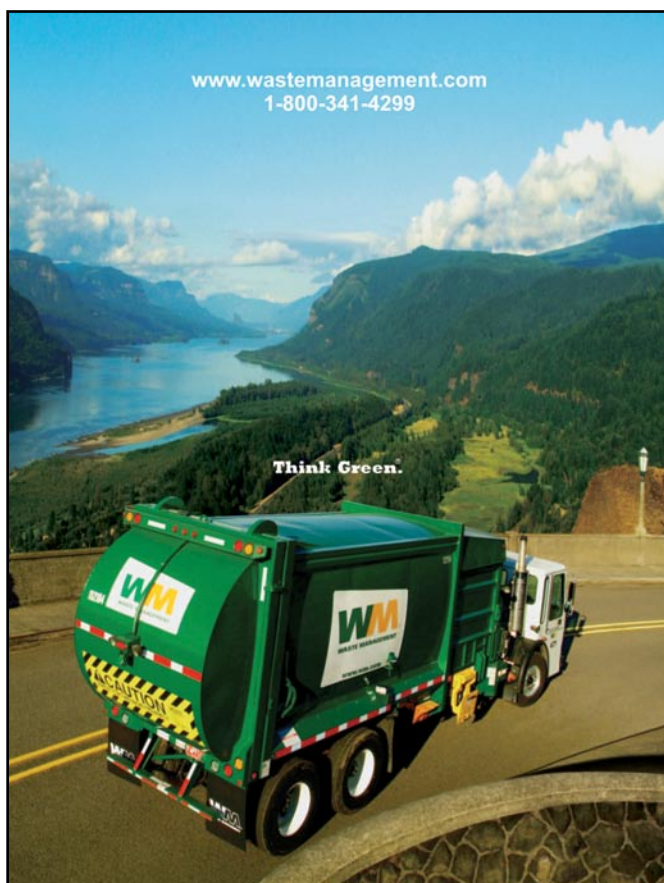
Canaveral Marshes and Blue Heron Wetlands

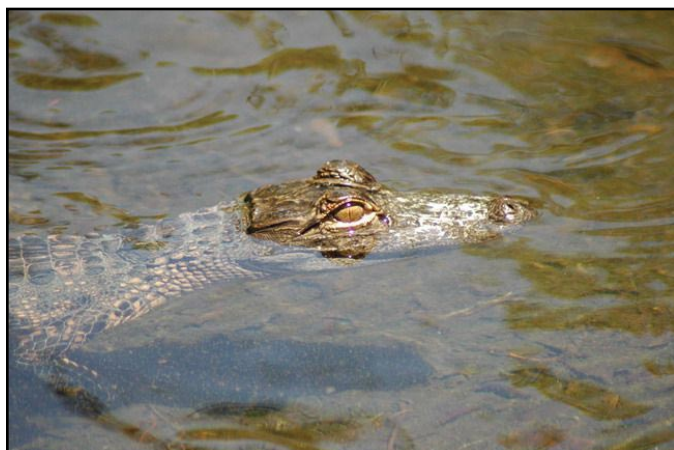
Trip Leaders: Matt and Lora Heyden

Jan. 25: with Larry Manfredi (Larry Manfredi Birding Tours) and Chris Wood (WINGS Birding Tours)

Jan. 27: with Wes Biggs (Florida Nature Tours), Dave Goodwin and Xavier Munoz (Neblina Forest Birding Tours)

Explore the engineered wetlands of Blue Heron, an outstanding birding site and magnet for wildlife, and the neighboring fresh-water floodplain habitats of Canaveral Marshes. American Bittern, Purple Gallinule, Hairy Woodpecker, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Gadwall, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Bobolink and Gull-billed Tern are just a few of well over 100 bird species sighted at Blue Heron. The upland hammocks and wetlands of Canaveral Marshes will be visited. Volunteers who conducted monthly surveys





Baby gator in pond. Photo by Jay Byrne Becker

in 2001 and 2002 recorded approximately 154 species of birds on this property, including American Bittern, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Mottled Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Long-billed Dowitcher, Stilt Sandpiper, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Crested Caracara, King and Virginia Rail, American Pipit, Wilson's Snipe, Sedge and Marsh Wren and Peregrine Falcon. Birders may get their feet damp on the moderate hike at Canaveral Marshes and see alligators, sometimes lots of them, at Blue Heron.

Meet in front of the Gymnasium at 6:30am in order to make car pool arrangements.

<http://nbdd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html>

Jan. 25 & 27, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 26 registrants; \$20

Florida Scrub-Jays and Plant Ecology of the Scrub

Trip Leaders: Dave Breining and Paul Schmalzer (Dynamac Corporation)

Jan. 25: with Jeff Gordon

Jan. 26: with Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

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Scrub habitat evolved when North America was much drier and desert animals from Texas and Mexico colonized Florida. When the oceans rose, the plants and animals remained and evolved into an ecosystem unlike any other in the world. Florida's desert-like prehistoric sand ridges are home to wondrous animals such as gopher tortoises, indigo snakes, scrub lizards, Crested Caracara and Burrowing Owl. Dozens of plants and animals living in Florida scrub are found nowhere else in the world. One of these animals is the Florida Scrub-Jay, which lives among the low growing scrub oaks, eating

and "stashing" its acorns. Join Dynamac's wildlife ecologist, Dave Breining, and plant ecologist Dr. Paul Schmalzer on a NASA tour bus through restricted access areas of the Kennedy Space Center to a scrub research site where participants can view several Florida Scrub-Jay families and their

interactions. Along the way, Paul will give emphasis to some of the rare plants, including grasses that are found in scrub habitat.

For security reasons at the Kennedy Space Center, we are restricted to offering this trip only to U.S. citizens.

www.dynamac.com/clients/projects/ksc.asp

www.fws.gov/northflorida/Scrub-Jays/scrubjays.htm

A free seminar at 8:00am precedes the field trip. The seminar will be held at, and the field trip will leave from, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Jan. 25 & 26, 9:30am-12:30pm: Limited to 42 registrants; Free

Afternoon Hayride

Trip Leaders: Dorn Whitmore and Mike Legare (USFWS)

Sponsored by



Watch the afternoon bird show from an ideal vantage point! Join Merritt Island NWR Chief Ranger Dorn Whitmore and Refuge Lead Biologist Mike Legare for a slow ride through a Florida paradise on this hayride around Blackpoint Wildlife Drive. There is no better way to view so many birds!

www.fws.gov/merrittisland

Meet at the entrance to the Black Point Wildlife Drive on MINWR. Park on the grass along the roadside – make sure your car is off the road. The hay wagon will return to the departure point. Bring water and snacks and please dress warmly!

Jan. 26, 2:00pm-5:30pm: Limited to 20 registrants; \$20

Hal Scott Regional Preserve

Trip Leaders: Lorne Malo (SJRWMD)

Jan. 26: with Larry Manfredi (Larry Manfredi Birding Tours) and Chris Wood (WINGS Birding Tours)

Jan. 27: with Carlos Bethancourt (Canopy

Tower), Sam Fried (Flights of Fancy Adventures) and Luis Segura (Trogon Birding Tours)

Join St. Johns River Water Management District Biologist Lorne Malo in pursuit of some of east Orange County's resident birds and pineland specialties. The vast expanse of pine flatwoods and open prairies of Hal Scott Preserve straddles the Econlockhatchee River in eastern Orange County, protecting the resources of the river. The trip leaves early to start at an active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony as the birds awaken from their roost. From there the group will explore pine flatwoods and the Econlockhatchee River swamp in search of other common resident species, including Eastern Bluebird, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, Wood Duck, Sandhill Crane, Bald Eagle and Barred Owl. With some luck, visitors may find Wild Turkey, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed, Hairy and Pileated Woodpecker (eight woodpecker species on 2003 festival field trip), Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Sedge and Marsh Wren, King Rail, and Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawk. The second Florida state record Hammond's Flycatcher was found here during the 2007 Festival. In addition to many bird species, alligators, deer, gopher tortoises, otters, bobcats and indigo snakes may also be found. This is a four-mile walk, some of which may pass through mud and standing water.

www.nbdd.com/godo/SJRWMD-RecreationAreas.html

Jan. 26 & 27, 5:15am-12:00pm: Limited to 25 registrants; \$40

Hike Lake Proctor Wilderness Area

Trip Leader: Tony Flohre (Florida Trail Association) with David Hartgrove and Simon Thompson (Ventures Birding Tours)

Join Florida Trail Association member Tony Flohre, an informative activity leader from the Indian River Chapter, for a morning walk through the diverse habitats of the Lake Proctor Wilderness Area in Geneva. The outer loop of the six-mile trail system leads several miles through this 475-acre tract, where you'll experience a little bit of every Central Florida ecosystem from sand pine scrub and bayhead to sandhills, pine flatwoods and wetlands. Birding is excellent along the flatwoods ponds on the west side of the loop. Wildlife is abundant in this preserve. Watch for Sandhill Crane, Pileated Woodpecker and Wood Duck; you may even encounter white-tailed deer. This trip will require a fair amount of walking, some in hilly areas.

www.floridatrail.org

Meet at the parking lot for Lake Proctor Wilderness Area at 8:45am.

field trips

Directions: From Sanford, go east on SR 46 through Geneva. Just beyond the intersection of SR 426 and SR 46, keep alert for the trailhead parking area on the left. From Mims, go west on SR 46 almost to the traffic light in Geneva. Parking area will be on the right. If you reach the stoplight, you went too far. Bring water and snacks. Drive time from Mims is approximately 20 minutes.

Jan. 27, 9:00am-12:30pm: Limited to 25 registrants; Free

Pelagic Birding Offshore New Smyrna Beach

Trip Leaders: Debra Shearwater with Wes Biggs, Jeff Bouton, Jim Danzenbaker, Murray Gardler, Dave Goodwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, Paul Lehman, Larry Manfredi, David Simpson, Bob Wallace and Chris Wood

Sponsored by



Pelagic birds are species that are usually not seen close to land. Long-time birders know that a pelagic trip can be as exciting as birding can get, and offshore

pelagic trips in Florida offer a new frontier. Join us onboard the 100-foot fishing boat, Pastime Princess, as we steam out of Ponce Inlet to look for some of the most sought-after species in Florida. Our destination is an undersea formation known as "The Steeples," a productive location of underwater cliffs and seamounts that cause upwellings and current edges, especially along the western edge of the Gulf Stream. Among our targets will be Northern Gannet; Northern Fulmar; Greater, Manx, Cory's and Audubon's Shearwater; Pomarine, Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaeger; Wilson's, Leach's and Band-rumped Storm Petrel; Sooty and Bridled Tern; Black-legged Kittiwake; Masked and Brown Booby; Red and Red-necked Phalarope; and Sabine's Gull. There is even a chance at this time of the year that we might find a Razorbill or Dovekie, exceedingly rare birds for anyone in Florida! Bottlenosed and spotted dolphins and loggerhead sea turtles are commonly seen. The endangered northern right whale is a possibility as the destination is within their wintertime calving grounds. Seabirds from the Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Sanctuary at the Marine Science Center will be released if any are ready at the time of the trip. There will be food available for purchase on the boat or you can bring a small cooler with your lunch. Be sure to bring full rain gear and wear waterproof shoes as it is likely that the wind will blow and spray will fly!

Back-up day: January 29, 2008.

www.dixiecrossroads.com
www.pastimeprincess.com

Meet at Sea Harvest Restaurant at 6:15am.

Directions: From I-95, get off at Exit #249 and go east approximately 3 miles. You will pass WalMart and Walgreens on the right. Get into the left lane and look for K-Mart on right and a sign that says Business 44 Left. Take this left fork and follow the road over the railroad tracks and through the traffic lights (Dixie Freeway). The road becomes Canal Street and ends at the water. Turn left onto Riverside Drive and

continue north on Riverside Drive until you reach the Sea Harvest Restaurant/Pastime Princess on the right. From US 1, go east on Canal Street to the dead end at the water. Turn left on Riverside Drive and go to Sea Harvest Restaurant/Pastime Princess on the right. Drive time from Titusville is about 45 minutes. Pastime Princess, 800-881-2628 or 386-428-0201. Jan. 28, 6:30am-5:00pm: Limited to 90 Registrants; \$115



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paddling adventures

With an abundance of rivers, creeks and estuaries to explore, these trips were selected to showcase some of the Space Coast's very best locales. Estuary trips may provide glimpses of bottle-nose dolphins, but sightings of manatees in open estuarine waters at this time of the year would be rare due to cold temperatures. The weather can be very uncertain at the end of January. It is advisable that you contact your outfitter on the afternoon before to make sure weather conditions are conducive to running the trip. Please meet outfitters at the sites 15 minutes before the times indicated. No food will be provided on the kayak trips. Dress warmly; rain gear will help to keep you dry. Bring water, snacks, hats and sunscreen.

Please register directly with the kayak providers for the kayak trips offered during the Festival.

Middle Econlockhatchee River **Village Outfitters (321) 633-7245**

Trip Leaders: Peter Houston and Doug Sphar (Space Coast Paddlers)

One of Florida's most scenic blackwater rivers, the serpentine Econlockhatchee winds through pristine wetlands and ancient forests of giant oaks and cypress. This sheltered section of the river is characterized by narrow, high-banked, riverine channels that alternate with broader river sections that flow through dense woods. White sandy beaches are available for rest stops.

www.villageoutfitters.com
sales@villageoutfitters.com
www.spacecoastpaddlers.org

Meet at the CR 419 Bridge. Food will not be provided. Bring your own lunch and drinks!

Directions: Launch from the CR 419 Bridge. From the intersection of I-95 and SR 50 in Titusville, take SR 50 west about 18 miles to CR 419 (Chuluota Road). Go north on CR 419 past the town of Chuluota and keep going. Park in the parking area on the right just before the Econ Bridge. Take-out is at Snow Hill Road, approximately 10 miles downstream. Vehicles will be moved to the take-out point before the trip downriver begins.

Jan. 23, 8:00am-4:00pm; With boat rental \$40/person; Bring your own boat \$15/person

Mosquito Lagoon from Riverbreeze Park **Village Outfitters (321) 633-7245**

Trip Leader: Peter Houston

This spectacular area of Mosquito Lagoon is characterized by a maze of waterways filled with dozens of mangrove islands. A wide variety of wading birds, shorebirds, gulls and terns are possible. Dolphins and manatees (in warmer weather) are sometimes seen in the deeper waters of the Intracoastal Waterway.

www.villageoutfitters.com
sales@villageoutfitters.com

Directions: Go north on US 1 two miles past the yellow caution light in Oak Hill. Look for a brown sign identifying the park. Turn right on H. H. Burch Road and go east to the park entrance on the left.

Jan. 24 & 27, 7:30am-12:00pm. With boat

rental \$30/person; Bring your own boat; \$15/person

Thousand Islands

Adventure Kayak of Cocoa Beach (321) 453-6952

Trip Leaders: Bill Kowalik, cell (321) 480-8632 and Tim Kozusko, Wildlife Biologist

Rich in both tropical and temperate plant species, these islands provide protection from the wind for paddlers. The canals between the islands provide shelter for manatees (in warmer weather) and dolphins and a wide variety of wading birds. Long-time Thousand Island advocate, biologist Tim Kozusko will join the trips to share his vast knowledge of this crown jewel of Cocoa Beach.

www.advkayak.com
BillKowalik@advkayak.com

Directions: Launch from the end of Ramp Road in Cocoa Beach. From the intersection of SR 520 and Highway A1A, go south on A1A for several miles. Just past the Minuteman Causeway, turn right on 5th Street South. Go one block west to North Brevard Avenue and turn left. Take the first right on Ramp Road and go to the park.

Jan. 23, 25, & 26, 8:30am-12:00pm. With boat rental \$25/person; Bring your own boat; \$15/person

Haulover Canal and Mullethead Island **A Day Away Outfitters (321) 268-2655**

Trip Leader: Mike Mahan

The best location on Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge from which to view dolphins and manatees (in warmer weather), Haulover Canal is a passageway between the Indian River Lagoon and Mosquito Lagoon. Just to the west lies one of the state's most significant colonial waterbird nesting islands. Mullethead Island and its surrounding grass flats provide an opportunity to view a variety of birds from the water's level. Sandbars near the island provide loafing spots for large numbers of shorebirds, pelicans, gulls and terns.

www.adayawaykayaktours.com
info@adayawaykayaktours.com

Directions: Cross the Titusville Bridge and head toward the Black Point Wildlife Drive. Go past the Drive to the stop sign at SR 3. Turn left and go 4.5 miles north, crossing the bridge over the Canal. Take the first left



Purple Gallinule and chick. Photo by Joel Reynolds

at the bottom of the bridge, across from the Manatee Viewing Platform sign. Follow the road around, turning right and passing through a gate. The road now parallels the canal. Go all the way to the end.

Jan. 26 & 27, 8:30am-12:00pm. With boat rental \$25/person; Bring your own boat; \$15/person

Lake Monroe Conservation Area **A Day Away Kayak Outfitters (321) 268-2655**

Trip Leaders: Lorne Malo and Maria Zondervan (SJRWMD) and Mike Mahan

Numerous wading birds and raptors are expected. A detailed description of this trip with directions can be found in the Festival Field Trips section of this publication.

www.adayawaykayaktours.com
info@adayawaykayaktours.com

Jan. 25, 6:30am-11:30am. With boat rental; \$25/person; Bring your own boat; \$15/person

Turkey Creek

Kayaks, Etc. (772) 794-9900

Trip Leader: Kristen Beck

This trip offers the best possibility for sighting manatees in January. A wide variety of habitats highlight your journey from the wide open waters of a saltwater estuary to a sheltered narrow winding blackwater creek lined with lush hardwood forest. Precipitous, high sandy bluffs are encountered at the upper reaches of the creek.

www.kayaksetc.com
info@kayaksetc.com

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www.extremesportskayaking.com

www.spacecoastpaddlers.org

**Saturday, Jan. 26,
11:00am-2:00pm
Chain of Lakes**

Directions: From Brevard Community College, go north on U.S. 1 approx ¾-mile. Turn right on Jay Jay Road. Go about a half mile and turn right into the park, just west of the soccer fields. Follow the road around and go past the softball fields on the right. Outfitters will be set up on the lakeshore directly behind Brevard Community College.

paddling adventures

Directions: Launch from Alex Goode Park in Port Malabar. From the intersection of US 1 and US 192 in Melbourne, go south on US 1 for about 5.5 miles to Port Malabar Boulevard. Turn right and go over the railroad tracks to Bianca Drive. Turn right on Bianca Drive and follow it to the park.

Jan. 24 & 25, 8:30am-12:00pm. With boat rental \$25/person; Bring your own boat \$15/person

Pelican Island

Kayaks, Etc. (772) 794-9900

Trip Leader: Kristen Beck

The spectacular sight of hundreds of American White Pelicans, Brown Pelicans and Double Crested Cormorants surrounding America's first National Wildlife Refuge is the culmination of a pleasant paddle through mangrove lined waterways graced with numerous wading birds.

www.kayaksetc.com

info@kayaksetc.com

Directions: Launch from the east side of the Wabasso Causeway. From I-95 and CR 512 (Exit 156), go east 2.5 miles and turn right on CR 510, which goes through Wabasso and crosses the Indian River. Kristen will launch from the NORTH side of the causeway just past the first bridge. There is a boat launch with restrooms across the causeway from the kayak launch point.

Jan. 26, 8:30am-12:00pm. With boat rental \$25/person; Bring your own boat \$15/person

Fox Lake and South Lake

Space Coast Kayaking (321) 243-0279

Trip Leader: Jim Durocher, cell (321) 406-1577

Two beautiful freshwater lakes joined by a canal are frequented by some highly sought after birds, including Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Bald Eagle. A variety of wading birds, waterfowl and raptors are expected.

www.spacecoastkayaking.net

info@spacecoastkayaking.net

Directions: From the intersection of SR 50 and SR 405 (by the Walmart) in Titusville, take SR 405 (South Street) north approximately 2 ½ miles to Fox Lake Road. Turn left and go west two miles to the park at the end of the road. Follow the road along the lakeshore until you see the kayaks. From the intersection of U.S. 1 and Garden Street, go west on Garden St. and go under I-95 to the end of Garden St. at the four-way stop. Turn left on Carpenter Road and follow it to the end. Turn right on Fox Lake Road and go west to Fox Lake Park.

Jan. 23, 24, & 27, 8:30am-12:00pm. With boat rental \$25/person. Bring your own boat \$15/person



Lesser Scaup during Waterfowl 101 workshop at Black Point Wildlife Drive. Photo by Ray Scory

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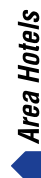
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26



Campgrounds and RV Parks

- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|---|---|--------------|---|---|--------------|
| 5 | Hampton Inn Titusville/Kennedy Space Center | 321-383-9191 | 1 | Cape Kennedy KOA - Mims | 321-269-7361 | 5 | Manatee Hammock Campground - Titusville | 321-264-5083 |
| 6 | Ramada Inn & Suites | 321-269-5510 | 2 | Crystal Lake RV Park - Scottsmeer/Mims | 321-268-8555 | 6 | Seasons in the Sun RV Park - Mims | 321-385-0440 |
| 7 | Riverside Inn - Kennedy Space Center | 321-267-7900 | 3 | Great Outdoors Golf & Country Club - Titusville | 321-269-5004 | 7 | Willow Lakes RV Park - Mims | 321-269-7440 |
| 8 | Super 8 - Kennedy Space Center | 321-269-9310 | 4 | Loughman Lake Lodge - Mims | 321-268-2277 | | | |

- 1 Best Western Space Shuttle Inn(Host Hotel)
321-269-9100
- 2 Clarion Inn - Kennedy Space Center
321-269-2121
- 3 Comfort Inn
800-715-7110
- 4 Days Inn - Kennedy Space Center
321-269-4480

workshops

Learn About Optics

Selecting Optics for Birding

Presenter: Jeff Bouton

Leica Sport Optics

Selecting the "perfect" birding optics is a very personal affair that is different for each individual user. Manufacturers provide a near endless variety of options to fit every consumer's individual needs, making the selection process that much more complex. Join us as we unravel some of the mystery behind what all of those manufacturer's specs really mean to you, the consumer; review advantages and disadvantages of varying options; and learn how each affects actual field performance. By the end of the session, you should be able to sort through the field of optics that are out there and find the one that is best suited for you and your individual needs!

http://www.leica-camera.us/nature_observation/

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 119; Free

And Were Afraid to Ask: Optics

Presenter: Stephen Ingraham

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

Start the festival off right with all of your questions about optics answered! Steve Ingraham, former editor of the ABA's "Tools of the Trade" and founder of *Better View Desired* and *betterviewdesired.com* with more than 20 years of optics testing behind him, will give candid (or at least inventive) answers to any and all of your optics questions. Steve is currently the Birding and Naturalist Product Specialist for Carl Zeiss Sports Optics and was directly involved in the design of the successful new FL line of binoculars. So from "how to choose" to "how to use" binoculars, and from chromatic aberration to the psycho-physical effects of the roof prism design, just ask.

www.zeiss.com/sports

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 119; Free

Introduction to Birding Optics

Presenter: Ben Lizzas

Eagle Optics

Optics are one of the fundamental tools to help ensure a successful and enjoyable birding experience. For the beginner, it can be an overwhelming task to sort through the myriad of choices available to today's birder or naturalist. Ben will take a look at these options and talk about considerations to make when looking for the binoculars or spotting scope that will suit your needs and budget best. An avid birder and sales representative for Eagle Optics, Ben brings with him years of

product knowledge and experience behind the glass to present a clearer understanding of today's optics. The seminar will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

www.eagleoptics.com

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 119; Free

Enhance Your Birding Pleasure

Beginning Birding

Trip Leaders: Nancy Corona, Cary Salter and Jason Frederick

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Birding is far more than a hobby. It is an open door to the world of nature, a touch point that connects people to the outdoors. Birding inevitably leads to a discovery of turtles, butterflies, wildflowers and all the interconnections of nature. In an informative talk, Nancy will cover field guides and other literature. She will provide helpful hints for beginners on where to find birds and how to identify them, pointing out interesting behaviors, typical silhouettes and identification tricks of the birding trade. Cary will give an overview of optical equipment and how to properly use it. A free car-pool field trip to Black Point Wildlife Drive will follow the classroom session so you can get right out in the field and put your new knowledge to work. Nancy Corona is the Merritt Island NWR Public Programming and Education Coordinator. Cary Salter is an outstanding Refuge volunteer. He and his wife, Betty, lead free Refuge birding trips twice a week throughout birding season. They have introduced countless people to the wonders of the wildlife of Merritt Island NWR.

www.swarovskioptik.com

www.fws.gov/merrittisland

Jan. 24, Seminar, 8:00am-9:00am: Free

**Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center;
Car pool to Black Point Wildlife Drive,
9:00am-12:00pm; Free**

Jan. 26, Seminar, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Free

**Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center;
Car pool to Black Point Wildlife Drive,
2:00pm-5:00pm; Free**

Birding by Ear and Habitat

**Trip Leader: Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore
Birding Adventures**

Birding by ear and habitat is a great way to increase your ability to identify birds.

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**BIRDWATCHER'S
Digest**

America's Favorite
Birdwatching Publication

Advanced birders use birding by ear for 70% of identifications. It is an essential advanced birding skill and necessary to speed up ID and how to locate the bird. Birding by

habitat helps you to determine what birds you are likely to see in an area and what can be eliminated for identification. Using a variety of techniques in the field, you will find out how to recognize various species of birds by call and alarm notes and why they make them. The field trip will begin before daylight in an oak hammock searching for warblers and owls as birds awaken and begin singing. We will travel to various habitats including scrub, pinelands, open field, shoreline, open water, wetlands and roadsides to see the role of habitat in identification. A short classroom session, using a variety of media at the Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center, will provide you with numerous handouts and additional information and techniques to improve your skills. Two short stops for shorebirds at beach habitats will end the session. Due to the numerous habitats visited during this workshop in the past, 80-plus species have been observed with a high of 96 species for both days. Paddy Cunningham-Pascatore has been a naturalist in South Florida for more than 21 years, teaching Tools For and Advanced Tools for Better Birding for 17 years. Her motto is "you learn the ID," and she specializes in assisting birders in a non-intimidating field experience. Her business, Birding Adventures, takes birders to search for birds anywhere they can be found throughout Florida, specializing in Everglades, Big Cypress, Corkscrew and the Florida Keys.

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

www.BirdAdventure.com

Meet at the parking lot for the Oak Hammock Trail, ½-mile east of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 6:00am.

Jan. 26 & 27, 6:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 16 registrants; \$25

Seven-fold Path to Better Birding

Presenter: Stephen Ingraham

Carl Zeiss Sports Optics

What do good birders know that you don't (yet)? Here are seven simple disciplines that will make any birder a better birder and increase your enjoyment of the time you spend in the field. Great for beginners and any birder who

workshops

wants to improve! Steve Ingraham is the Birding and Naturalist Product Specialist for Carl Zeiss Optics. He is well known from his years as the editor of the "Tools of the Trade" section in Birding magazine, his frequent articles in *Wildbird*, *Birder's World* and *Birdwatch* (UK) magazines, his appearances at ABA conventions and birding events around the country and as the founder and editor of *Better View Desired* and betterviewdesired.com on the world wide web. This is an ideal class to take before attending the Beginning Birding session on Saturday at Merritt Island NWR.

www.zeiss.com/sports

Jan. 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 119; Free

Birding by Impression: A Simpler Approach to Field Identification

Presenter: Kevin T. Karlson

Kevin Karlson Photography

This exciting new concept to field identification is changing the way that many people are enjoying and identifying birds in the field. Using impression-based physical characters rather than scientific plumage analysis as the initial approach to field identification, a simple, yet surprisingly accurate picture is quickly obtained. The beauty and effectiveness of this approach lies in its simplicity and doesn't require knowledge of complicated feather anatomy or prior experience with birds. Beginners and experts alike will share the benefits with common sense and a keen sense of observation the most important tools needed. This interactive program will start by examining Kevin's personal birding journey of 28 years and his recent "conversion" to this creative approach, followed by photographs and explanations that depict the basic concepts of impression-based birding. Audience members will be encouraged to share their thoughts and impressions of comparative photos, with questions and comments encouraged. Kevin and Dale Rosselet are co-writing a book called *Birding by Impression: A Simpler Approach to Field Identification*.

www.kevinkarlsonphotography.com

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-5:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Birding by Impression in the Field

Trip Leaders: Kevin Karlson with Murray Gardler and Sarah Linney

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BIRDWATCHER'S
Digest

America's Favorite
Birdwatching Publication

This outdoor session will be an interactive experience concentrating on the use of the simplified techniques. By concentrating on non-plumage field characters such as size, shape and

behavior, participants will be able to practice their



Sandhill Crane. Photo by Joel Reynolds

general impression approach, share observations and ask questions.

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

www.kevinlarlsonphotography.com

This is a car-pool field trip. Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway at 1:00pm.

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-5:00pm: Limited to 24 registrants; \$25

Shorebirds by Impression

Presenter: Kevin T. Karlson

Kevin Karlson Photography

The indoor session will concentrate on removing present confusion that exists with field identification of shorebirds as Kevin reveals an exciting and simpler method of bird identification. Formerly considered a very difficult task reserved for experts, shorebird ID will become easier for all levels of birders if a relatively simple approach is taken. Starting with basic principles of size, structure and behavior as well as other important non-changeable characters such as bill length and shape, a simple and accurate first impression is formed. By concentrating on the basics and an overall comparative view of each shorebird before applying the classic field-mark system of identification, much of the confusion created by seasonal plumage variability of shorebirds is removed. This workshop, due to its short length, will not cover every shorebird species seen in North America, but will concentrate on the process of analysis that will help each person to confidently continue this method in the field. In 2006, Houghton-Mifflin published *The Shorebird Guide*, which Kevin co-wrote with authors Richard Crossley and Michael O'Brien. This comprehensive field guide contains almost 700 photos and outlines a simpler method of bird identification for beginners and experts.

www.kevinkarlsonphotography.com

www.shorebirdworld.org

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-5:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:30pm: Auditorium; \$5

Shorebirds by Impression in the Field

Trip Leaders: Kevin Karlson with Murray Gardler

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BIRDWATCHER'S
Digest

America's Favorite
Birdwatching Publication

This outdoor session will be an interactive experience concentrating on the use of the simplified techniques. By concentrating on non-plumage field characters such as size, shape and

behavior, participants will be able to practice their general impression approach, share observations and ask questions. This workshop is especially helpful when shorebirds are in non-breeding plumage (like the birds in winter plumage found here in January) since the criteria for identification relies on non-changeable field characters.

www.birdwatchersdigest.com

www.kevinkarlsonphotography.com

This is a car-pool field trip. Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway at 8:00am.

Jan. 24 & 27, 8:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 24 registrants; \$25

Beach Birds

Presenter: Adam Kent

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

You see them all the time - running from the surf, perched on pilings and soaring over the water. If you think they're nondescript grayish variations on the same theme, you're only partially correct. Have fun learning identification and natural history of the common but often difficult-to-identify birds found on Florida's beaches in the winter. What's the difference between a tern and a gull or a sandpiper and a plover? Where does the Willet fit in? We'll explore their variations and sort through some of the subtleties of their shapes and behaviors in this look at these fascinating beach birds. Adam Kent is FWC's Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Coordinator.

Jan. 26, 8:30am-10:00am: CDR; \$5

Beach Birds in the Field

Trip Leaders: Adam Kent with Michael Brothers, Sarah Linney and Bob Wallace

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Smyrna Dunes Park is located on the south side of Ponce de Leon Inlet in Volusia County, at the north end of New Smyrna Beach. This spectacular

beachside park offers panoramic views of the ocean, inlet and estuary as well as the opportunity to get close looks at gulls, terns and shorebirds and do a seawatch of the ocean for loons, sea ducks and jaegers. There is always a possibility of finding rarities such as Glaucous or Iceland Gull. Twenty species of shorebirds are probable here, including Oystercatchers, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, Purple Sandpipers and endangered Red Knots. The session begins at high tide, when birds are concentrated along the shore, allowing close observation and identification practice. After spending some time at the park, participants will take a pontoon boat shuttle to the Disappearing Island sandbar for a close look at the numerous shorebirds, pelicans, cormorants, and up to 15 species of gulls, terns, and skimmers that gather there. The leaders will work closely with participants to demonstrate the process of determining age and separation of difficult gull plumages. Falling tide is the best time to visit Disappearing Island.

www.dixiecrossroads.com

Meet at Volusia County's Smyrna Dunes Park.

Directions: From BCC, go north on U.S. 1 to New Smyrna Beach. Turn right on Canal St. (3 blocks north of U.S. 1 & Hwy A1A intersection) and go to the end. Turn left onto Riverside Drive and go two blocks. Turn right onto Washington St., which immediately becomes North Causeway, the causeway to the barrier island. After crossing the last bridge, turn left onto North Peninsula Ave. The park is two miles north, at the end of the road. Entrance fee is \$3.50 per car (up to 8 people). Drive time from BCC is about 45 minutes. Please make sure you eat lunch or pick something up to eat at the park. There are plenty of picnic tables. No food will be provided. Bring water.

Jan. 26, 11:30am-5:00pm: Limited to 32 registrants; \$35

Birding for Fun

Presenter: Reinier Munguia

Wildstock Nature Photography

Learn the basics of birding and techniques to improve your bird identification skills. This presentation is full of examples of what birders will encounter in the field. Learn how to recognize birds by their shape, colors, flight patterns, calls and behaviors. Reinier Munguia is a nature photographer based in Lakeland, Florida. As a teacher, he is recognized for his enthusiasm and his passion for teaching others what he knows.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 25, 9:00am-10:00am: Gym Class 119; Free

Refine Your Identification Skills

Raptors of Florida, Part I: Accipiters, Kites and Falcons

Presenter: Jeff Bouton

Leica Sports Optics

Jeff will explore the finer points of raptor identification, looking at the subtleties beyond the obvious (e.g. square tail, round tail) including wing-flap differences, typical flight profiles in soaring and gliding birds, age and sex characteristics and how these can be beneficial in identification. Eleven species will be covered with special emphasis on similar species such as Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks and others, including Swallow-tailed Kite, White-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, Mississippi Kite, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, American Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Jeff Bouton is the Leica Sports Optics Product Specialist for Birding/Naturalist Markets.

http://www.leica-camera.us/nature_observation/

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/leica

Jan. 24, 3:00pm-5:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Raptors of Florida, Part II: Buteos, Vultures, Eagles and More

Presenter: Jeff Bouton

Leica Sports Optics

Jeff will discuss some of the confusing soaring raptors, covering 11 species with special emphasis on age classes of the two eagles and tips on how to separate them. Full coverage will be given to the various ranges of plumages in the buteos. Red-tailed Hawk has at least five different, named subspecies, can be either light or dark morph in many of these and then can be either immature or adult, leaving the average person spinning. He will point out the differences between Swainson's, Red-tailed, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks in their various plumages and will cover Broad-winged, Short-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks as well as Osprey and Crested Caracara. Jeff Bouton is the Leica Sports Optics Product Specialist for Birding/



Spotting hawks. Photo by Joel Reynolds

Naturalist Markets.

http://www.leica-camera.us/nature_observation/

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/leica

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:30pm: CDR; \$5

Flycatcher ID

Presenter: Alvaro Jaramillo

Field Guides Inc.

Flycatchers produce a love-hate relationship with many birders. Many species are dull-colored and extremely similar (heck, sometimes practically identical) to other species. On the other hand, other species like the kingbirds are bold and bright, easy to spot and hold a special place in birders' hearts due to their gutsy attitude. Yet both expert and beginner still want to know how to simplify identification of some of these challenging birds. This workshop will be a classroom session to review basics such as the different flycatcher groups and the marks that are important in separating species. Al will also introduce how voice can be used in field identification. Photos of the common species occurring in this part of Florida in winter will be shown as well as examples from other parts of the continent. Whether you are intimidated or invigorated by the challenge of flycatcher identification, this class promises to be informative. Alvaro (Al) Jaramillo is a guide for Field Guides Inc. and author of *The Birds of Chile*.

www.fieldguides.com

Jan. 24, 3:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Taking the Fear Out of Identifying Gulls

Presenter: Alvaro Jaramillo

Field Guides Inc.

Gulls can be a dizzying group to separate (some individuals even baffle experts). Their propensity to wander great distances makes them a favorite of veteran birders everywhere. However, they are also a perfect group for beginners as they are easy to approach and sit in plain view for extended periods. This allows for detailed study! In this classroom session, Al will review basics such as "parts" of a gull and a basic understanding of age, molt and seasonal variations in plumages. Photos of some of the many plumages shown by commonly occurring Florida species will be shown. Gulls are never truly easy birds to identify, but there are a bunch of tips and tricks which can literally take the fear out of this group, even for a beginner. Do you get all "messed up" when you reach the gull pages in the field guides? If so, this course aims to clarify rather than confuse. A trip to the Volusia Landfill will also take place. This area is consistently productive for many gull

workshops

species, including some rather rare ones for Florida. Whether you are a beginner just learning these skills or a veteran refreshing them, this class promises to be a fun and interactive experience. Alvaro (Al) Jaramillo is a guide for Field Guides Inc. and author of *The Birds of Chile*.

www.fieldguides.com

Jan. 23, 8:00am-10:00am: CDR; \$5

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-3:00pm: CDR; \$5

Gull ID at the Tomoka Landfill

Trip Leaders: Alvaro Jaramillo with

Jan. 23: Michael Brothers, Jeff Gordon, Paul Lehman, Bob Wallace and Chris Wood

Jan. 27: Michael Brothers, David Simpson, Bob Wallace and Andy Wraithmell

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One of the only landfills in Florida that allows birders to visit, the Tomoka Landfill is one of Volusia County's most unique and productive birding sites! Join us for a rare opportunity to tour this site with some of the most knowledgeable gull experts in the world. As many as 30,000 gulls of 10 species can be seen at the Landfill. Recent rarities include Glaucous Gull, Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull, Thayer's Gull, and European Herring Gull. Who knows what else we might find - maybe a first state record Yellow-legged Gull or Kelp Gull! The conditions allow for close comparison of similar species with many different age classes and plumages. The dump also offers the opportunity to get great photographs of the dozens of Bald Eagles, and hundreds of wading birds that are present, and adjacent pine flatwoods and open fields hold sparrows and other winter species. This is a trip you will not want to miss!

www.dixiecrossroads.com

www.fieldguides.com

Meet at the Tomoka Landfill administration building at 11:30am on Jan. 23.

Meet at the Tomoka Landfill administration building at 8:00am on Jan. 27.

Directions: Take I-95 North to exit 256, Port Orange exit, Route 421. Turn left (west) on Taylor Road, continue for 2 miles. Turn right (north) on Tomoka Farms Road, FL 415. Go four miles north on FL 415 to the Tomoka Landfill. Stop at the administration building and sign in. You will also need to sign out upon departure. Drive time from Titusville is about one hour.

Jan. 23, 11:30am-3:30pm: Limited to 30 registrants; \$25

Jan. 27, 8:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 30 registrants; \$25

Sparrow ID

Presenter: Adam Kent

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

This workshop introduces the basics of identification of inland sparrows found east of the Mississippi River. Even though most North American sparrows lack the bright colors of many warblers, sparrows' distinctive shapes, interesting behaviors and subtly beautiful patterns can allow us to identify them with often only a quick glance. Sure, sparrows and their often secretive behaviors can present identification challenges in Florida in the winter. The trick is being prepared. Once you understand the basics of the combination of shapes, behaviors and patterns, you, too, can do away with the term "Little Brown Job." You may even find yourself saying you are going "sparrowing" instead of birding this winter. Adam Kent is FWC's Florida Scrub-Jay Conservation Coordinator.

Jan. 23 & 24, 1:00pm-2:30pm: CDR; \$5

Seabird ID

Presenter: Larry Manfredi

Larry Manfredi Birding Tours

Learning how to identify seabirds while on a moving vessel as they fly past the observer is not always an easy task. Veteran Florida birder Larry Manfredi will give you the opportunity to learn seabirds as they are actually encountered from a boat. This workshop will introduce the beginning seabirder to some of the common pelagic birds that might be encountered off the East Coast of the United States. Among the birds discussed will be Audubon's, Cory's and Greater Shearwaters, Masked Booby, Brown Booby, Sooty Tern, Bridled Tern, Brown Noddy and Pomarine Jaeger. A native of South Florida, Larry is familiar with locations of all the Florida specialties. He is the founder and president of his birding tour company.

www.southfloridabirdingtours.com

Jan. 25, 3:45pm-5:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Warbler ID

Presenters: Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

The wood warblers are among the most popular groups of birds in North America. Their sheer abundance and diversity, brilliant plumages and spectacular migrations make them a favorite of nearly every birder. Identifying these birds can be a challenge, particularly in fall and winter when many species are disguised in shades of green, yellow and brown. Learn all about wingbars, eyerings, tail-wagging and hover-gleaning as

we take the challenge and sort out these splendid birds. Our program will cover all eastern species with an emphasis on the 25-plus species that winter in Florida. Michael O'Brien is a freelance naturalist, environmental consultant, artist and author living in West Cape May, New Jersey. Louise Zemaitis is an artist, naturalist and a popular field trip leader in Cape May where she leads bird and butterfly walks and teaches birding workshops as an Associate Naturalist with Cape May Bird Observatory. Michael and Louise lead tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

www.ventbird.com

Jan. 23, 2:45pm-4:15pm: CDR; \$5

Jan. 26, 3:30pm-5:00pm: CDR; \$5

Waterfowl 101

Trip Leaders: Kim Risen

NatureScape Ventures

Jan. 25 & 26: with Murray Gardler

Jan. 27: with Larry Manfredi

Sponsored by



In this field workshop session we'll visit Black Point Drive on the Merritt Island NWR to learn first-hand, in-the-field tips on the identification, behavior and life of the waterfowl that spend their winters here. Large concentrations of water birds have made this area famous, and Kim will do his best to shed new light on these fascinating birds. A birding tour leader, freelance photographer and writer, Kim is the founder and publisher of *NatureScape News*, a tabloid news magazine emphasizing the FUN of birding, butterflying and the wonders of nature.

www.floridatoday.com

www.naturescapenews.com

This is a car-pool field trip. Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway at 8:00am.

Jan. 25, 26, & 27, 8:00am-12:00pm: Limited to 24 registrants; \$20



seminars

Archaeology and Anthropology

The Windover Site: A Glimpse of Life in Florida 7,000 Years Ago

Presenter: Dr. Rachel K. Wentz

Sponsored by the Florida Public Archaeology Network

The state of Florida has produced some of the oldest human skeletal remains in North America. The Windover site, a mortuary pond located in east-central Florida near present-day Titusville, was first discovered in 1982 during construction within the Windover Farms suburban housing development. Mortuary ponds are shallow ponds into which burials were placed. Similar sites have been discovered throughout Florida, but Windover represents the largest sample of its antiquity in North America. The well-preserved remains of over 168 individuals were excavated and date to around 7000 years ago. The excavation of Windover spanned three field seasons (1984-1986). One of the most fascinating aspects of preservation from Windover was the recovery of human brain tissue from over 90 crania. The state of preservation at Windover has permitted cellular and molecular analyses and provides a rare glimpse into the lifestyle of the people of Florida's Archaic period. Along with exceptionally preserved skeletal remains were beautifully crafted artifacts buried alongside many of the individuals. These included bone and wooden tools, ornamental shells and beautifully woven textiles, which were wrapped around the individuals before they were placed in the pond. This presentation will examine the life and death of people from Windover. The Regional Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, East/Central Region, Dr. Rachel Wentz specializes in bioarchaeology, the examination of health and illness through the analysis of human skeletal remains in archaeological contexts. Her research has shown that the people from Windover suffered from many forms of illness and injury, including fractures, infection, arthritis and nutritional deficiencies. Come learn more about what life was like for these early Floridians.

www.flpublicarchaeology.org

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$5

International Travel and Adventure

The Best Birding Spots of Central Panama

Presenter: Carlos Bethancourt

Canopy Tower Ecological and Nature Observatory

One of the "birdiest" countries in the world, the small nation of Panama boasts a BIG bird list of 965 species, greater than that of the United States and Canada put together! Sixty-five percent of those species inhabit the forests around the Panama Canal, where birding is easy and very productive. Highlights generally include great views of toucans, puffbirds, motmots, trogons, antbirds, tanagers and manakins. Panama also hosts a superb assortment of mammals, including two- and three-toed sloths, howler monkeys, capuchins, Geoffrey's tamarins, tamanduas, woolly opossums, capybaras and kinkajous. Raptor migration is spectacular, offering sights of 75,000 Swainson's Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks in the air at once. In 1997, visionary Raul Arias de Para seized an opportunity when he took over an abandoned U.S. Air Force radar tower and converted it into The Canopy Tower, an exclusive ecolodge offering its guests an extraordinary opportunity to appreciate the rich and diverse fauna and flora of Soberanía National Park and the unique culture and history of the Panama Canal Zone. Raul recently opened a second ecolodge, The Canopy Lodge, which is set in a verdant canyon just above El Valle de Antón, also known as Crater Valley, 57 miles outside of Panama City. Carlos Bethancourt is the Canopy Tower's top birding guide.

www.canopytower.com

Jan. 23, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

The Magic Birding Circuit of Ecuador

Presenter: Dr. Jorge Cruz

San Jorge Ecolodges and Botanical Reserves - Quito

Due to its several distinct climates, Ecuador has an amazing variety of bird life. Equaling more than 25% of the world's avian population, Ecuador's 1600-plus species offer more bird diversity in less space than any other country in the world. San Jorge owns four private reserves known as The Magic Birding Circuit, with over 800 species of birds. From San Jorge Botanical Reserve, join us as our explorations take us to San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Reserve,

San Jorge de Cosanga-Yanayacu Reserve adjoining Antizana National Park, and to San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve, next to Mindo. San Jorge Ecolodge and Botanical Reserve is the only private reserve outside the republic's capital of Quito. A traditional 18th-century Spanish eco-resort, San Jorge is located in the high barren plains and highland rainforest situated among 200 acres in Ecuador's Pichincha Foothills. The Magic Birding Circuit tours are based from two hotels -- San Jorge Eco-lodge in Quito and the new San Jorge de Milpe Eco-lodge (next to Mindo), which are central to the four climate steps of Ecuador: the high barren plains, highland rainforest, paramo cloud forest and subtropical rainforest making it the ideal retreat for some of the best birding in Ecuador.

www.ecolodgesanjorge.com

Jan. 25, 9:00am-10:00am: Gym Class 121; \$5

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$5

South Georgia – Island of Ice and Penguins

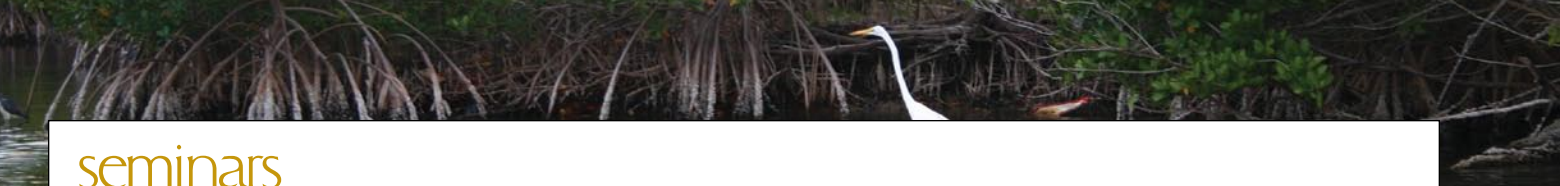
Presenter: Jim Danzenbaker

Kowa Sporting Optics

Located 1000 miles off the southeastern tip of South America, South Georgia conjures up images of a remote mountainous island with snow covered peaks, vast penguin colonies and beaches covered in fur seals. South Georgia is home to four species of breeding albatrosses and four species of penguins. It boasts huge colonies of King Penguins (200,000 pairs per colony) and about seven million Macaroni Penguins. With a wingspan of 11 feet, Wandering Albatrosses breed on islets in South Georgia's northern bays. The island has the world's southernmost passerine and is home to a carnivorous duck. South Georgia also played an important role in history. This was the starting point for Sir Earnest Shackleton's epic journey of discovery southward and his final resting place. Grytviken, an abandoned whaling station, was the center of whaling activity during the dark days when this industry flourished. Twenty years ago, a skirmish on South Georgia was the first act of the Falklands War. This presentation will focus on the bird and mammal life of this sub-antarctic island. We will explore all of this through a pictorial of photographs, and you are invited along for the ride.

www.kowascope.com/frontend/landing_sports.asp

Jan. 26, 2:45pm-3:45pm: Auditorium; \$5



seminars

Canada's Arctic: The Yukon, Northwest Territories and the Dempster Highway

Presenter: Sam Fried

Flights of Fancy Adventures, Inc.

Winding like a gravel ribbon for 450 miles through the boreal forest and across the arctic tundra, the Dempster Highway offers unparalleled scenery and opportunities for birding and wildlife viewing. Golden Eagles, Long-tailed Jaegers and Willow and Rock Ptarmigans are common birds seen from the road. Gyrfalcons and Peregrine Falcons build their aeries on roadside cliffs, and 25 species of ducks and swans are easily observed. Northern Hawk-Owls sit atop spruce trees as we pass by. In tundra areas, Smith's and Lapland Longspurs breed while Northern Wheatears can be found in the talus slopes. Mammals will not be overshadowed as we encounter moose, gray wolf, caribou, snowshoe hare, grizzly and black bears. Truly one of the continent's most exciting drives, the Dempster Highway is the road to adventure in the land of the midnight sun!

magesfried@aol.com

Jan. 23 & 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Birds of the Bahamas

Presenter: Dr. Peter G. Merritt

Hobe Sound Productions

Dr. Peter G. Merritt will show video and discuss the ecology and distribution of birds that he recently videotaped in the Islands of the Bahamas, including Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, Great Inagua and San Salvador. The presentation features many Bahamian specialties, such as the Bahama Mockingbird, Bahama Parrot, Bahama Woodstar, Bananaquit, Cuban Emerald, Cuban Pewee, Great Lizard-Cuckoo, Greater Flamingo, Key West Quail-Dove, LaSagra's Flycatcher, Red-legged Thrush, Thick-billed Vireo, West Indian Woodpecker, Western Spindalis, White-cheeked Pintail, Zenaida Dove and more. Highlights of the presentation include video footage of the endangered Kirtland's Warbler in its winter habitat on Eleuthera, the rare subspecies of Brown-headed Nuthatch on Grand Bahama Island and spectacular seabird colonies off the coast of San Salvador. A past president of the Florida Ornithological Society, Dr. Merritt is the executive producer of the *Video Guide to Florida Birds*, a two-hour program that teaches the identification of over 200 species of birds in Florida, and *Everybody Loves Birds*, a 30-minute program designed to teach lower-school children the identification of 50 species of North American birds. He is currently producing the *Video*

Guide to Bahama Birds.

www.hspl.us

Jan. 23, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Jan. 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Peru's Fabulous Wealth of Birds and Culture

Presenter: Xavier Munoz

Neblina Forest Birding Tours

With 1700 species of birds, Peru is an unparalleled destination for bird enthusiasts. Manu National Park is home to the highest concentration of bird life on earth. Boasting some of the most spectacular scenery in South America, the country is a paradise of natural history wonders and superlative biodiversity. From the central high region of the Andes, with its massive snow-covered peaks and extraordinarily steep canyons to the immense sand dunes and dramatic stone wastelands of the desert regions of the coast and the enormous rainforests of the Amazon basin, the natural beauty of Peru is unsurpassed. As stunning as the scenery is, it's the multiple layers of great civilizations that make Peru so intriguing. You can wander around colonial cities that have preserved the legacy of the Spanish conquistadors, visit the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco, ponder the enigma of the Nazca Lines and gaze upon the spectacular ruins of the mystical lost Incan fortress of Machu Picchu. The Ecuadorian company Neblina Forest started as a lodge in the cloud forest of Mindo in 1991. In 1994 they began taking reservations, training guides and leading tours throughout Ecuador, establishing themselves as the first birding company based in South America. They now operate tours in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Colombia and Guyana.

www.neblinaforest.com

Jan. 25, 11:30am-12:30pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Jan. 26, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

The Unique Galapagos Islands: A Real Alive Museum

Presenter: Xavier Munoz

Neblina Forest Birding Tours

Treasures of this World Heritage Site abound. In the Galapagos, wildlife is truly extraordinary. Many species are found nowhere else in the world. Don't be surprised if you have to step carefully over a nesting Blue-footed Booby or wait for a young Galapagos sea lion to uncurl from resting on the daypack you left on the beach. The Galapagos Islands have been protected since 1834 and, in 1986, its pristine marine environment gained added protection. Responsible tourism is a key factor in promising continued protection;

our itinerary is carefully designed with that in mind. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn more about conservation efforts to control exotic species such as goats, rats, pigs and cats. The Galapagos Islands bear the last unspoiled and pristine ecosystems of the world where animals are tame because of their recent exposure to human presence. Tremendous global efforts of conservation are made to protect them. This presentation will allow you to admire via wonderful pictures how close you can be to a real paradise in these islands. Neblina Forest promotes ecotourism to the Galapagos Islands as a way to provide responsible income to local people. The company can arrange year-round individual trips or charters to the Galapagos with the unique purpose to share with the world this national pride.

www.neblinaforest.com

Jan. 23, 2:15pm-3:15pm: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 26, 10:15am-11:15am: Gym Class 121; \$5

Mexico: Birding Wonderland

Presenter: Kim Risen

NatureScape Ventures

Mexico is a scenic and varied wonder with amazing diversity in habitats and birdlife. Many birders have their first taste of the tropics on their first journey to Mexico. In fact, Mexico is the international birding destination most often visited by U.S. birders. Its proximity to the United States, the presence of modern airports and inexpensive airfares to many parts of the country and an avifauna that is high in both total species (more than 1050) and endemics (more than 100) are a tantalizing combination. Many birders are surprised to find that, in the New World, Mexico is second only to Brazil in the number of endemic bird species that are found within its borders. It is these endemic bird species that attract birders from around the world. If you want to see these rare birds, Mexico is the ONLY place in the world to find them. Each corner of Mexico has its unique flavor in food, culture and birdlife. When the birding becomes slow, you can explore Mayan temples in the Yucatan, Aztec ruins in the central volcanic belt and Zapotec and Mixtec tombs in Oaxaca, all while enjoying each region's unique cuisine. There is something for everyone to enjoy when you visit Mexico! We'll take a visual tour around Mexico, sharing with you the great birds and birding that are found there. A bit of history, interesting tidbits and a brief background of the natural history will illustrate why Mexico is among the most rewarding birding experiences anywhere!

www.naturescapenews.com

Jan. 23 & 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

The Valdés Peninsula, Its Birds and Mammals

Presenter: Luis Segura

Trogon Tours, Argentina

Patagonian steppe, marine habitats and distinctive fauna combine to make this fascinating area an adventure unlike any other. The Atlantic coast of Patagonia has the highest numbers and widest diversity of marine mammals to be found in southern South America. Images of orca whales taking sea lions from solitary gravel beaches on the Valdes Peninsula have been the substance of innumerable nature films. The peninsula is home to the largest breeding population of southern right whales on earth, with over 800 individuals spending three-quarters of the year in its remote pristine waters. In addition, 32,000 southern elephant seals, 8000 southern sea lions and large numbers of several dolphin and porpoise species share this environment. Birds in the Valdes Peninsula are unique. Six Argentine endemic birds live in this wildlife paradise: Band-tailed Earthcreeper (also called Eremobius), Rusty-backed Monjita, Carbonated Sierra-Finch, Patagonian Canastero, White-throated Cacholote and White-headed or Chubut Steamer-Duck. Huge colonies of Magellanic Penguins can be found here, the most famous of which is at Punta Tombo. Inside the peninsula, one nesting colony of these birds has 60,000 active nests. Marine mammal and bird species vary depending on seasonality, but they are present year-round. Luis is a co-founder and co-owner of Birding Argentina/Trogon Tours, which is currently running successful birding, nature and cultural tours in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Antarctica.

www.trogonstours.com

Jan. 23, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5
Jan. 25, 10:15am-11:15am: Gym Class 121; \$5

Wildlife of the Brazilian Pantanal and Cerrado

Presenter: Luis Segura

Trogon Tours, Argentina

Located on Brazil's Bolivian border, the Pantanal is the largest wetland on Earth. Its habitats range from semi-deciduous and evergreen forests to palm woodlands and true "Pantanal" (seasonally flooded grasslands with scattered clumps of Cerrado scrub on elevated patches of land). Enormous numbers of lakes and rivers cross the region, constantly renewing the wetlands. The

Pantanal is considered the easiest place to see and photograph an incredible collection of neotropical fauna. Dry season shrinking of vast flooded areas concentrates fish for waders, caimans and carnivorous mammals. Giant otters, crab-eating raccoons, foxes and a myriad of herons and storks seek this food resource. The Pantanal is also home to the most spectacular neotropical cat of all: the jaguar; chances to see one here are high! The Cerrado's very characteristic vegetation corresponds to "arboreal savannas" of other tropical continents. Dominating west-central Brazil and extending into Paraguay, it is formed by sparsely scattered low trees and bushes with twisted branches, thick grooved bark and leathery leaves. Termite nests are prominent, providing a great attraction to nesting birds that tunnel into their depths and for termite feeding mammals such as the giant anteater. A naturalist's journey to Brazil could not possibly be complete without visiting the Pantanal and Cerrado, a place where the most remarkable animals of the neotropics live. We invite you to discover these unique ecosystems in their entire splendor.

www.trogonstours.com

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Jan. 26, 11:30am-12:30pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Penguins of the World

Presenter: Debra Shearwater

Shearwater Journeys

Everyone sees penguins in a different way. Ocean adventurers, exceptional divers and amazing survivors, penguins have managed to adapt to the harshest climate on earth, spending their lives in the frigid sea and on ice and snow-covered slopes. Join Debra Shearwater for an in-depth look at these appealing creatures. Using slides, she will discuss every species of penguin in the world - emperors, kings, gentoos, rockhoppers, chinstraps, adelies, Galapagos, macaronis, royal and little - 18 in all. She will discuss their special adaptations to a life at sea, their sense of vision and smell, their behavioral adaptations, breeding courtship and distribution. You'll find out why the color yellow is so important to penguins in establishing relationships and how they waterproof themselves. From Australia to the Falkland Islands, these gentle animals were easy prey for explorers, whalers and other fishermen. Even today, waste and oil spills threaten their lives and homes. Debra has personally traveled to many of the world's penguin centers and captured thousands of images of these very special and delightful

of all birds!

www.shearwaterjourneys.com

Jan. 24 & 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm: CDR; \$5

Traveling and Birding - The Perfect Combination

Presenter: Simon Thompson

Ventures Birding and Nature Tours

Ventures Birding Tours owner and confirmed travel addict Simon Thompson will take you on a journey around our planet in search of birds. Despite the hazards from dangerous animals, political unrest and today's logistical travel worries, birding as an excuse to travel the world still holds a great attraction for many people. And what birds they are! From a blizzard of hummingbirds and tanagers in Ecuador to brightly colored parrots in Australia and warblers in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina; you have an outrageous pallet of color and variety of birds that would impress even the most jaded traveler. Join Simon as he travels from continent to continent on his quest for birds. Simon Thompson owns and operates his own birding and natural history tour company, Ventures, Inc. He leads small groups of naturalists and birders both within North America and to many locations throughout the world, including the Peruvian Amazon, Belize, Galapagos, Greece, France, England and Australia. Ventures also runs day trips in North and South Carolina and offers trips to many top birding sites throughout the U.S.

www.birdventures.com

Jan. 23 & 24, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Madagascar

Presenter: Joanne Williams

Joanne Williams Photography

Joanne will present a new narrated musical slide production featuring images from her latest "recon" adventure and new tour destination to Madagascar. This isolated island is about twice the size of Arizona and has some of the highest biodiversity on the planet. Of roughly 200,000 known species found on Madagascar, about 150,000 are endemic - meaning they exist nowhere else on Earth. Although Madagascar has "only" 258 bird species, 115 of them are endemic. Madagascar also possesses five endemic families of birds. Madagascar has more unique genera than any other African country. Unique to the island are more than 50 types of lemurs, 99 percent of its frog species and 36 genera of birds. Here are a few interesting facts: Madagascar houses 100 percent of the world's lemurs, half of its chameleon species,

seminars

6 percent of its frogs and none of its toads. Some species found in Madagascar find their closest relatives not in Africa but in the South Pacific and South America. This great island hosts many of the world's little-known and little-seen secrets, some of which Joanne has been able to capture with her camera! She will also provide other information regarding her upcoming tours and workshops.

www.joannewilliamsphoto.com

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 26, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 123; \$5

The Bird Magic of Peru

Presenter: Ramiro Yabar

Amazonia Lodge Tours

When you think of Peru, do you think of Cuzco, Machu Picchu, land of the Incas, Lake Titicaca, rainforests, cloud forests, Amazon River, Peruvian festivals and markets, the Inca Trail, canopy walks? Peru is slightly smaller than the state of Alaska. It is a country rich in diversity with breathtaking landscapes and very friendly people. Maybe you are thinking of the Andean Condor, Cock-of-the Rock, Humboldt Penguin, Inca Tern, Marvelous Spatuletail, Blue-crowned Motmot or Toco Toucan. How about 1800-plus bird species

(almost 20% of the world's birds), 137 species of hummingbirds, and 132 species of tanagers? Join the adventure as Ramiro takes you along the coast, down rivers, through canyons, up mountains and into the jungle to explore some of the top birding areas across Peru.

www.amazonialodge.com

Jan. 24, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Jan. 26, 9:00am-10:00am: Gym Class 121; \$5

Bolivian Bird Adventures

Presenters: Ramiro Yabar and Steve Urban

Amazonia Lodge Tours

Bolivia is truly a hidden gem that you don't hear much about. It has very few tourists and only a handful of birders every year. Bolivia is about the size of Texas and California combined with only 8 million people. Today a full two-thirds of Bolivia's populace are Indians, descendants of the Incas and Aymars. The large size of Bolivia combined with its sparse population and varied geography makes it a great place for viewing wildlife. Join Ramiro and Steve as they take you to La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Samaipata, Amboro National Park, Madidi National Park, El Cotal Ranch north of Trinidad and Noel

Kempff National Park to explore some of the top birding areas across Bolivia.

www.amazonialodge.com

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

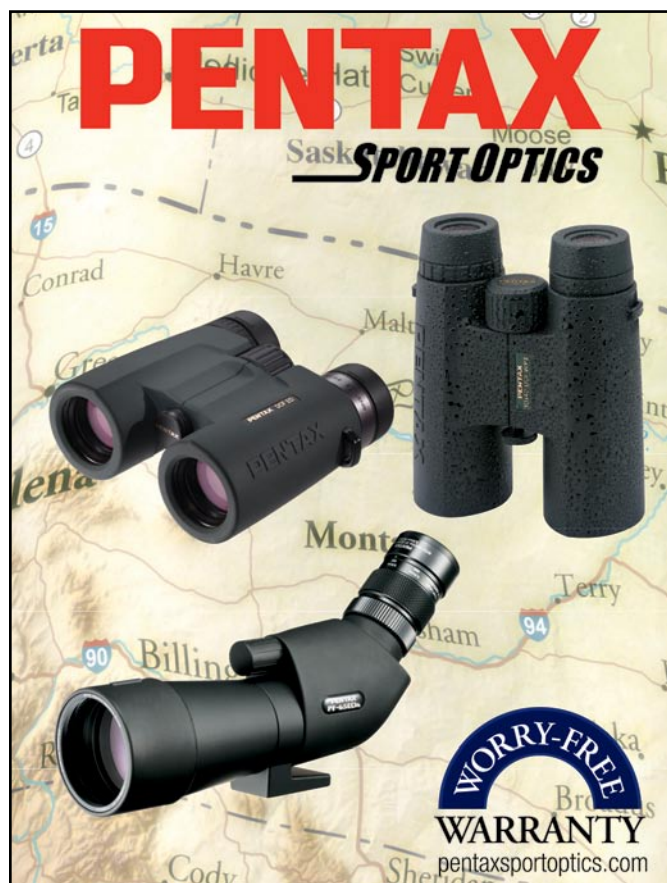
Domestic Travel and Adventure

Great Florida Birding Trail: The Next Generation

Presenter: Mark Kiser

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

East Florida, the oldest and largest section of the Great Florida Birding Trail, is being reopened in 2007 to add even more sites. Come learn about this latest project as well as the Birding Trail's mission, publications, highway signs, future projects and how you can get involved. The Birding Trail helps conserve and enhance Florida's bird habitat by promoting birding activities, conservation education and economic opportunity. We'll showcase some of the 400-plus sites (including little-known gems) and birds that make Florida special. The Birding Trail is a project of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, supported by the Florida Department of Transportation,



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birdwatchersdigest.com

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the Federal Highway Administration and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. Free Birding Trail publications will be available (along with hats and T-shirts for sale) at the booth. Mark Kiser is FWCC's Birding Trail Coordinator.

www.floridabirdingtrail.com

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

The Fabulous Dry Tortugas

Presenter: Larry Manfredi

Larry Manfredi Birding Tours

Sixty-eight miles west of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico are seven tropical coral islands with white, sandy beaches and stunning emerald-green waters. First named Las Tortugas (The Turtles) by Spanish Explorer Ponce de Leon in 1513, these reefs soon read "Dry Tortugas" on mariners' charts to show they had no fresh water. Rich in history and the site of a major seabird colony, these islands seem to be an oasis for lost or stranded passerine migrants that pass this way while flying to and from their northern breeding areas. One great wildlife spectacle happens yearly between March and September as some 100,000 Sooty Terns gather on Bush Key for their nesting season. In season, a continuous succession of songbirds and other migrants flies over or rests at the Dry Tortugas. Strategically set, these islands lie across a principal flyway from the United States to Cuba and South America. In this updated presentation, you will see photos of many migrant and pelagic birds as well as Fort Jefferson and Loggerhead Key taken over a period of 12 years of leading birding trips to the Dry Tortugas. Larry Manfredi was born and raised in Miami. Having lived in South Florida for more than 30 years, Larry is familiar with locations of all the Florida specialties.

www.southfloridabirding.com

Jan. 24 & 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Seabirds and Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay

Presenter: Debra Shearwater

Shearwater Journeys

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the largest federally protected area in the lower 48 states. Encompassing 5300 square miles of open water, its boundaries span near-shore and deep-ocean habitats. Its deepest point lies 10,663 feet below the surface in the Monterey Submarine Canyon, which is twice the depth of the Grand Canyon. Coastal habitats in the sanctuary afford important feeding, breeding and resting areas for many

mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. From Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants to sea otters and migrating gray whales, this rich area sustains an abundance of marine life. Offshore habitats are equally varied and supportive of life. Black-footed Albatrosses fly in search of squid to feed their young. It is here on the open sea that millions of Sooty Shearwaters feed on schools of anchovies and wheeling flocks of Buller's Shearwaters spend the winter in search of food. Ashy Storm-Petrels raft in flocks after feeding at night. Common Murre fathers bring their newly fledged chicks to these rich waters and Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets are found in large numbers on the canyon edges. Migrating Arctic Terns, Sabine's Gulls, Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers and Xantus' and Craveri's Murrelets also pass by. Humpback whales feed here year-round and blue whales stay the summer. Monterey Bay is a major destination for both beginning and seasoned birders. Its protected, half-moon shape allows for year-round trips. Join Debra Shearwater as she presents an informative and exciting lecture on this truly magnificent and timeless place. She will illustrate her lecture with slides and stories from her 33 years of running birding trips on Monterey Bay.

www.shearwaterjourneys.com

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Birds, Wildlife and Plants

A New World for Gopher Tortoises

Presenters: Ray and Pat Ashton

Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative Great strides have been made to protect gopher tortoises in Florida. Some of the new rules will allow local governments to be involved, which means that local citizens will also be engaged. Enhanced local efforts to protect tortoises will encourage people to enjoy the delightful experience of hosting tortoises in their yards and neighborhood green spaces. There are exciting plans to train educators on how to manage tortoises in school yards and how to use them to teach not just biology, but also math and English. Conservation areas should be better managed thanks to the gopher tortoise, and hopefully other species like indigo snakes, Florida Scrub-Jays and Burrowing Owls will have better habitats. The Ashtons will have a gopher tortoise with them for youngsters to meet at this fun presentation. Ray and Pat Ashton have studied gopher tortoises for over 30 years. Their popular book, *The Gopher Tortoise: A Life History*, was published two

years ago. A new book, *The Natural History and Management of the Gopher Tortoise* (Krieger Press), is due for release by early January.

www.ashtonbiodiversity.org

www.nbbd.com/godo/ef/gtortoise

Jan. 26, 9:00am-10:00am: Gym Class 119; \$5

Jan. 26 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

The Florida Scrub-Jay and Scrub Fire Ecology

Presenters: Dave Breininger and Dr. Paul Schmalzer

The Florida Scrub-Jay, fascinating from both biological and conservation perspectives, is the only avian species restricted entirely to Florida. Endemic to the scrub habitats of peninsular Florida, Florida Scrub-Jays exhibit a suite of remarkable adaptations. Scrub habitat evolved when North America was much drier and desert animals from Texas and Mexico colonized Florida. When the oceans rose, the plants and animals remained and evolved into an ecosystem unlike any other on the planet, one that is highly dependent on fire. Dozens of plants and animals living in the Florida scrub are found nowhere else in the world. This presentation will focus on Florida Scrub-Jay habitat use, demography and sociobiology in different types of habitat with an emphasis on fire ecology. Dave Breininger is a wildlife ecologist and Paul Schmalzer a plant ecologist for Dynamac Corporation at the Kennedy Space Center.

Presentation will be held at Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center.

A free NASA bus trip into restricted access areas of the Kennedy Space Center to see Florida Scrub-Jay families will follow the presentation. See the description in Field Trips.

www.dynamac.com/clients/projects/ksc.asp

www.fws.gov/northflorida/Scrub-Jays/scrubjays.htm

www.fnps.org

Jan. 25 & 26, 8:00am-9:15am: Free

Parrots of South Florida

Presenter: Susan Epps

The skies of Florida were once filled with brightly colored Carolina Parakeets. They are now gone, but since the 1960s other parrots and parakeets have been escaping and multiplying to fill the niche left by the extinction of our only native parakeet. Many cities in North America are home to vibrant colonies of psittacids. But the real mother lode can be found at the southern tip of the Sunshine State. No birder's visit to Florida would be complete without a trip down south to see them. Urban areas that are a hostile environment for native birds are perfect for



seminars

parrots. You might see Monk and Yellow-chevrons Parakeets sitting in the bushes at a shopping center in Kendall or note mixed flocks of Orange-winged and Blue-fronted Amazons in South Miami. There are few sights and sounds to equal the wonder of standing on Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale watching and listening as hundreds of Amazon Parrots fly overhead and land in trees to feed. The absolute best places to view exotic birds in Florida are in developed areas of Miami/Dade and Broward Counties where more than 30 species of free-flying parrots, parakeets and other introduced exotics have been recorded. Susan Epps lived in Fort Lauderdale for many years, hosting people from all over the U.S., Canada and Europe who wanted to see South Florida's colorful wild parrots and parakeets. She is the author of *Parrots of South Florida*, the updated version of which is due for release in November 2007. Susan now lives on the Mississippi Coast and is working on her next highly anticipated book, *Parrots of the United States*.

www.greenbirds.us

www.parrotsinthecity.com

www.californiaparrotproject.org

Jan. 25, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Auditorium; \$5

Weather and Bird Migration

Presenter: Paul Lehman

WINGS Birding Tours

A birder needs to know not only where the best places to look for migrants are and at what periods during the season particular species are most apt to occur, but they also need to have a basic understanding of the workings of the weather and how it impacts bird migration. Understanding and closely following the weather is a crucial component of successful birding. Heading out into the field without first checking a weather forecast, particularly during the spring and fall migration seasons, may hinder your success as much as or more than forgetting your field guide or spotting scope. Throughout North America, weather plays a crucial role in the timing and volume of migration, and in the occurrence of vagrant species. One of the best ways to improve your bird-finding skills is to better understand weather patterns and how they affect bird migration and distribution. Paul will begin with a basic weather primer and then cover the influences various weather conditions have on bird migration.

www.wingsbirds.com

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Migrant and Vagrant Traps of North America

Presenter: Paul Lehman

WINGS Birding Tours

A successful vs. unsuccessful day in the field during migration will probably be determined by when and where you decide to go birding and by what types of birds you are looking for. Join Paul Lehman on a slide tour of North America's migrant hotspots, from eastern Newfoundland and the Dry Tortugas to the western Aleutians and the California coast -- and everywhere in between. We'll visit a wide variety of islands, peninsulas, "habitat islands" and oases, isolated lakes and reservoirs, even a few garbage dumps and sewage treatment ponds along the way! Topics covered include what makes for a good migrant/vagrant trap, when to visit and characteristic and special birds found at many of the sites.

www.wingsbirds.com

Jan. 24, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

The World of Bats

Presenters: Cyndi and George Marks

Florida Bat Center

Bats are probably the most misunderstood of all the mammals. They became entangled in the Dracula legend centuries ago and have played frightening roles in myths and tales of horror ever since. Yet bats are shy, gentle animals and fill a vital role in maintaining balanced ecosystems throughout the world. In Florida, bats are the most important natural controller of night-flying insects. In other parts of the world, bats disperse seeds, pollinate plants, provide guano for fertilizer and even vampire bats have made important contributions to science and medicine. Come and join us for an interesting and informative presentation on "The World of Bats" by Cyndi and George Marks of the Florida Bat Center. The program will include a slide presentation on bats around the world, illustrating their unusual diversity, unique behaviors and benefits to humans. They will also be bringing live bats so you will be able to see some of our native Florida species up-close and personal. Cyndi and George Marks are the executive directors of the Florida Bat Center in Bay Pines.

www.floridabats.org

Jan. 25, 10:15am-11:15am: Gym Class 119; \$5

Jan. 26, 11:30am-12:30pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Endangered & Threatened Birds of Florida

Presenter: Dr. Peter G. Merritt

Hobe Sound Productions

Dr. Peter G. Merritt will show video and discuss

the behavior and ecology of the endangered and threatened birds of Florida. The video was taken throughout the state during the past several years as part of making the Video Guide to Florida Birds. Highlights include Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows singing in Everglades National Park, Piping and Snowy Plovers on the west coast of Florida, Whooping Cranes in northern Florida, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Florida Grasshopper Sparrows in central Florida, Florida Scrub-Jays on the east coast of Florida and a colony of Roseate Terns nesting on a remote shoal in the Florida Keys. Dr. Merritt will discuss the conservation and protection needs of these and other species of concern.

www.hsbi.us

Jan. 24, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

The Life of Birds

Presenter: Reinier Munguia

Wildstock Photography

This presentation covers all aspects of a bird's life from the adaptations that allow them to survive in their environment to their amazing flights and displays. Some of the topics to be covered include physical adaptations as well as behavioral adaptations, communication, foraging, courtship, nesting, brooding and many bird facts and real-life stories. You'll get lots of detailed information about many species around the world with special emphasis on Florida birds.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 25, 10:30am-12:00pm, BCC Auditorium; \$5

Barn Owls: Farmer's Friend, Teacher's Pet

Presenter: Dr. Richard Raid

University of Florida Barn Owl Project Coordinator

Preying primarily on rodents that commonly destroy or contaminate human food supplies, Barn Owls have frequently been referred to as "one of the most beneficial birds on earth." In recent years, Barn Owl populations throughout the nation have declined with the demise of favored habitat and suitable nesting sites. In 1994, as part of a science fair project, a high school student initiated a research project to investigate the possibility of enhancing Barn Owl populations for sustainable rodent control in the Everglades Agricultural Area of South Florida. Placing nesting boxes of various designs along canals and field edges, the student quickly learned that Barn Owls would find them and rear their broods, commonly two per year. With the full support of the agricultural industry, hundreds of nesting boxes now dot the Glades, with

an observed occupancy rate exceeding 80%. What began as a science fair project has grown into the University of Florida's Barn Owl Project. Although focused on Barn Owl research, the Barn Owl Project also serves as a tremendous outreach and education program. In this seminar, Dr. Richard Raid will describe the biology of Barn Owls and detail ongoing efforts to enhance their populations in South Florida and throughout the state. The presentation will include video taken of Barn Owl nestlings inside some of his nesting boxes.

<http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/barnowl/owlindex.htm>

Jan. 24, 10:15am-11:15am: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 25, 2:30pm-3:30pm: Auditorium; \$5

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

The Anatomy of a Big Day

Presenter: David Simpson

Birding with David Simpson

Is birding a sport? Come and learn about one of the competitive aspects of birding, The Big Day, where birders race around a pre-determined area trying to rack up as many species as possible in 24 hours. During an adrenaline-soaked, one-day adventure (preceded by periods of intense scouting), participants explore some amazing natural areas and withstand clinically excessive sleep deprivation. David will recount how he (with the help of Andy Bankert and others) broke barriers and convention en route to beating 10 of 12 Florida Big Day monthly records in one year, then 11 of 12 the next year. Find out what goes into a Big Day: planning, scouting, setting up the route, more planning, more scouting, running the route, changing the route, more planning, more scouting, running the route, recording and reporting the results. Millions of dollars have been raised for conservation at Big Day competitions, most notably at the New Jersey Audubon Society's annual World Series of Birding, the world's best known and most prestigious birding competition.

<http://homepage.mac.com/simpsondavid>

www.njaudubon.org/WSB

Jan. 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$5

Space Coast Wildflowers

Presenter: Jim Stahl

Florida was named for the abundance of flowering plants that early explorers found here. Today the many habitats of Florida (hardwood and palm hammocks, deciduous forest, pine flatwoods, scrub, sand hills, prairie, coastal dunes, roadsides, marsh, swamp and riverine) support over 4000 species of native and naturalized wildflowers

plus numerous exotics from the horticultural trade. This program will present slides of wildflowers (common, rare, unusual, small and spectacular) and a few trees, shrubs, ferns and other plants with comments on their natural history, uses by people and wildlife, home landscaping values and occurrences. The presentation will highlight plants that can be seen during the festival week. The speaker will include information on books for identifying and locations for finding Florida plants. Jim Stahl is a retired biologist from Ohio and an active volunteer for Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Canaveral National Seashore and the Brevard County Natural Resources Department where he performs biotic surveys and public programs.

www.floridawildflowers.com

www.fnps.org

A free car pool field trip to visit sites around north Brevard will follow. Meet in front of the Gym to organize the trip at 9:30am. See description in Field Trips.

Jan. 23, 8:00am-9:15am: Gym Class 119; \$5

Jan. 25, 8:00am-9:15pm: Gym Class 123; \$5

Wading Birds – Barometer of Ecosystem Functioning in the Indian River Lagoon System

Presenter: Dr. Eric Stolen

Dynamac Corporation

With 16 regularly occurring species, wading birds (Order Ciconiiformes) are one of the most diverse and numerous groups of birds found in the northern Indian River Lagoon system (IRL). Over the past half-century, humans have drastically altered wetland habitat within this estuary, which stretches for over 250 kilometers along Florida's Atlantic Coast. Some populations of some species of birds have benefited from these changes while others have suffered. Efforts currently underway are attempting to restore much of the wetland habitat in the northern IRL to its original state. The effect of restoration on wading bird populations here remains to be seen. Ecologists working for NASA have been monitoring wading bird populations in the northern IRL since 1987. Originally designed to determine if Space Shuttle launches were affecting nesting colonies near the launch pads, the monitoring program now includes investigation of wading bird foraging habitat throughout the Kennedy Space Center and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Key issues affecting wading bird populations in this region include management of impounded wetlands, regional-scale land development, impacts on the estuary from human populations and changes in sea level

and climate due to global warming.

<http://www.dynamac.com/clients/projects/ksc.asp>

Jan. 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Eagles in Florida

Presenter: Lynda White

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

With one of the largest populations of Bald Eagles in the contiguous states, Florida faces the challenge of protecting the birds while dealing with unprecedented development. Learn about these magnificent creatures and ways you can help ensure the continued recovery of the species. Meet Paige, the eagle, and bring your camera! Lynda White is Audubon of Florida's Project Eagle Watch coordinator.

www.audubonofflorida.org/who_centers_CBOP.html

Jan. 25, 11:30am-12:30pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Jan. 26, 10:15am-11:15am: Gym Class 119; \$5

The Future of Meaningful Birding – eBird

Presenter: Chris Wood

WINGS Birding Tours

Every day, thousands of people go out and look for birds. Many keep track of the birds they see or hear, either jotting them down in a notebook or entering them into their computer. But most of these data are eventually lost, thrown out, or in a format that makes them impossible to use. What if there were a way to gather these observations and make them available to other birders, scientists - anyone with an interest in bird distribution? Imagine what could be done. That is the purpose of eBird - to gather, archive and disseminate observational data on birds recorded by bird watchers so that we can better understand bird distribution, bird abundance and factors that affect birds in the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, you can use eBird to keep your life list, state lists and county lists. eBird also pools your observations with thousands of other birders to build maps, bar charts and find other visualizations that can help you find birds. It's free. It's fun. It will help you, and it will help better inform bird conservation. Isn't it time you did more than bird? Isn't it time to eBird? Chris Wood is the Project Leader for eBird and the Avian Knowledge Network at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and is photo quiz editor of the ABA publication *Birding* as well as ABA's online photo quiz.

www.ebird.org

www.avianknowledge.net

www.wingsbirds.com

Jan. 24 & 25, 2:45pm-3:45pm: CDR; \$5

photography

Digiscoping

Mike Freiberg: Digiscoping - New Wave of Photography!

Join Nikon's own birding specialist Mike Freiberg, who will discuss the basics of digiscoping and preview Nikon's exciting new technology. Digiscoping is the ingenious result of marrying a camera to a spotting scope to get those distant shots of wildlife that can't be grasped with ordinary single-lens reflex cameras. Nikon's new Coolpix P5000 has proven to be a major weapon in the world of digiscoping. One of Nikon's best selling digiscoping cameras in recent history, its new auto-focus technology is faster and more accurate than ever. Mike will display many images from his own portfolio to show first-hand the capabilities of the Nikon glass. He will take you from the very beginning to discuss how digiscoping came about and will reveal some basic start-up strategies to take away the complexities of beginning this wonderful hobby. A major player in bird and wildlife photography, Nikon has brought a new dimension into the world of digiscoping. If you are thinking about getting into digiscoping, are already digiscoping and looking for some helpful hints or are just curious, then this is the program for you. For more information, please visit Nikon's web site and view the world through Nikon eyes. Gear up for a Digiscoping adventure!

www.nikonsportoptics.com

Jan. 23, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 121; Free

Jan. 26, 2:15pm-3:15pm: Gym Class 119; Free

Ben Lizdas: An Introduction to Digiscoping

Digiscoping is a simple and effective way to capture images of wildlife at a distance using a spotting scope with a point-and-shoot digital camera. In this seminar we will cover the basics of what type of equipment makes a good digiscoping set-up, including adapters, scopes, eyepieces, cameras and tripods. In addition to equipment, we will also touch on field technique and image post-processing. We will conclude with an inspiring slide show of digiscoped images.

www.eagleoptics.com

Jan. 25, 11:00am-12:00pm: Gym Class 153, Free

Clay Taylor: Digiscoping with D-SLR Cameras

The recent popularity of interchangeable-lens Digital SLR camera bodies creates new opportunities, as well as problems, for digiscopers. If you are contemplating the purchase of a D-SLR or already own one and want to use it for digiscoping, we will cover the equipment needed, help you do the math and cover field techniques.

www.swarovskioptik.com

Jan. 23, 3:30pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 123; Free

Clay Taylor: Digiscoping Field Trip

This field trip will serve as a "how-to" for new digiscopers and those who are interested in starting digiscoping as well as refining techniques for current digiscopers. Participants should bring their scopes, tripods, cameras and adapters. We will cover the basics of field shooting with emphasis on hands-on instruction.

www.swarovskioptik.com

Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway at 8:00am.

Jan. 24 & 26: 8:00am-12:00pm; Free

Jan. 25: 1:00pm-5:00pm; Free

Photography Presentations

Kevin Doxstater: Beautiful Birds & Music 2 and Beautiful Nature & Music 2

Beautiful Birds 2: The music of Ludwig van Beethoven

provides the backdrop for this multimedia presentation of bird photography by award-winning photographer Kevin Doxstater. The program features nearly 400 images of North American birds. From beautiful portraits to exciting action, each photograph flows smoothly and effortlessly with the music of Beethoven's 6th Symphony (movements 1 and 5) and Overture to Egmont. Revised and updated with many new species!

Beautiful Nature 2: This multimedia presentation combines the symphonic music of Ludwig van Beethoven with a stunning presentation of nature photography. While the selection of images favors avian subjects, this presentation includes photographs of mammals, insects, butterflies, spiders, reptiles, amphibians, scenic landscapes, sunrises and sunsets. Always evolving, Beautiful Nature features over 450 photographs built around music from Beethoven's 3rd, 6th, 7th and 8th symphonies.

www.naturalvisionsphoto.com

Jan. 26, 3:30pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Milton Heiberg: Interpretations of Nature Series: Fort DeSoto Park & Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Let yourself float in a pool of total relaxation and, with open eyes, dream of the Earth's finest products. Milton Heiberg's Interpretations of Nature Series has two all-new additions put to music. The theme of each is the nature of Florida. The first is focused on the wildlife and landscapes of Fort DeSoto Park. The second is of Ding Darling NWR. They tell a story of this part of our planet that you, the viewer, may reflect upon. You bring something of yourself to it and take something away with you. It's a "must see."

www.miltonheiberg.com

Jan. 25, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Reinier Munguia: Life of Birds

Please see description in the Seminars section.

Joanne Williams: Madagascar

Please see description in the Seminars section.

Photography Techniques

Robert Amoroso: Exposure with Digital Cameras

Are you new to digital photography? Are you overexposing your highlights or have heard about but don't understand "exposing to the right"? Then you need to attend this workshop with award-winning wildlife and nature



Ground Doves in the Morning. Photo by Joel Reynolds

photographer Robert Amoroso. This workshop will cover the one subject that is most problematic for digital photographers: determining exposure for digital cameras. We'll discuss why you shouldn't underexpose, exposing to the right on the histogram, what is a histogram, why and how to use manual mode, incident meters, DSLR reflected light meters and a host of other subjects. If you are attending one of Robert's field workshops, plan on attending this informative session in advance. A CD with loads of information will be given to all participants.

www.wildscapeimages.com

Jan. 23, 10:00am-11:30am: Gym Class 123; \$35

Robert Amoroso: Bird Photography: DSLR Set-up and Equipment Basics

If you are new to digital photography, unsure what equipment you need for bird photography or how to set up your camera, you should attend this workshop with award-winning wildlife and nature photographer Robert Amoroso. This workshop will cover basic and advanced DSLR camera set-up, RAW vs. JPG file formats and accessory equipment such as tripods, super-telephoto lens, flashes and rechargeable batteries to name a few. We'll also cover how to use this equipment to best advantage in the field, including long-lens technique, shooting from a ground-pod and hand-holding a telephoto lens. Though specific DSLR set-up info for Canon cameras will be covered (Robert is a Canon user), other system users will find much essential information in this workshop. If you are attending one of Robert's field workshops, plan on attending this informative session in advance. Handouts will be available.

www.wildscapeimages.com

Jan. 25, 10:45am-12:15pm: Gym Class 123; \$5

Kevin Doxstater: Image Editing for Digital Photographers 1

With digital photography, there is one undeniable fact: When the day's shooting is over, there is still plenty of work to be done. Many photographers who are new to this exciting new form of photography struggle with learning new software. The programs that are necessary to do the job can be intimidating for first-time users. This seminar is intended to make the transition easier for those who



Falcon and Jon Wood from the Raptor Project. Photo by Joel Reynolds

are new to the world of digital photography. Beginning with a thorough introduction to the work area (including menus, toolboxes and palettes), the seminar will cover topics such as how to read and understand histograms, brightness and contrast adjustments, color corrections, cropping and resizing images, sharpening and file-saving. A CD with step-by-step guides to the techniques discussed is included with registration. The session has been expanded to three hours, and participants are encouraged to bring their laptop computers to the class for a "hands-on" learning experience. The instructor, Kevin Doxstater, has been using Adobe Photoshop both personally and professionally for over 11 years and is experienced on both Windows and Macintosh platforms.

www.naturalvisionsphoto.com

Jan. 23, 12:00pm-3:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Kevin Doxstater: Image Editing for Digital Photographers 2

Building on the basics from Image Editing 1, this workshop will cover several topics that will allow you to bring out the best in your digital images using Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. We'll begin the class with a look at monitor calibration and take a look at a couple of different ways to get your monitor looking right so you can get the best possible output. We'll also discuss advanced techniques for color correction, using the Toning Tools (dodging and burning), retouching your images with the Clone Tool and the Healing Brush/Patch Tool (including

tips for restoring old photos), how to use the Selection Tools and how to add text to an image using the Type Tools. We'll conclude the session with a discussion of the Print dialog box and which settings are best to choose when making a print. Each participant in the workshop will receive a CD featuring step-by-step tutorials for each of the topics we'll be covering. The session has been expanded to three hours, and participants are encouraged to bring their laptop computers to the class for a "hands-on" learning experience.

www.naturalvisionsphoto.com

Jan. 24, 12:00pm-3:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Kevin Doxstater: Image Editing for Digital Photographers 3

In this advanced session we will learn several techniques to further enhance your imagery, including advanced masking techniques (for cutouts), how to create digital frames, torn paper edges and other edge effects, how to assemble a collage, tricks for great-looking grayscale and color-toned images and more. Each participant in the workshop will receive a CD featuring step-by-step tutorials for each of the topics we'll be covering. The session is three hours and participants are encouraged to bring their laptop computers to the class for a "hands-on" learning experience.

www.naturalvisionsphoto.com

Jan. 25, 12:30pm-3:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Milton Heiberg: Bird Photography

Milton Heiberg, author of *The Essentials of Nature Photography*, will teach you how to capture digital images of the beauty of birds - not just snapshot portraits. He will cover how to approach birds with telephoto lenses. Learn how to photograph birds in flight, using techniques taught by this 30-year veteran of nature photography. If you are planning to attend Milton's photo field workshops to Biolab Road, you should seriously consider this seminar.

www.miltonheiberg.com

Jan. 24, 11:00am-12:00pm: Gym Class 119; \$5

Milton Heiberg: Close-Up Photography

Learn how to capture the beauty of nature close-up through techniques taught by Milton Heiberg, author of *The Essentials of Nature Photography* and a 35-year veteran of nature

photography

photography. The slide lecture/seminar portion (12-1 pm) will cover photography of wildflowers, insects, butterflies and other small creatures. For the outdoor workshop portion (1-2 pm), we will take a walk out back to one of the fallow areas of the campus and get down into it. Come with or without your camera and close-up lenses. You will look at small nature subjects from a whole new perspective and visually study their beauty in a brand new light, both literally and figuratively.

www.miltonheiberg.com

Meet in front of the Gymnasium at 1:00pm for the outdoor workshop portion.

Outdoor Workshop, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Jan. 26, 12:00pm-2:00pm: Gym Class 153; \$5

Reinier Munguia: Nature Photography

This presentation covers useful techniques for those interested in nature photography. Reinier will cover techniques on how to improve the quality of your images through the use of proper exposure, how to deal with the dynamic range of modern digital cameras and the use of ND filters. Learn how to solve problems in the field, what gear to take with you and how to see nature from a documentary perspective. Master the light and conquer the elements that can ruin a great shot. Learn techniques on how to deal with harsh light, wind and other things that can affect the quality of your images.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 23, 8:15am-9:45am: Gym Class 123; \$35

Reinier Munguia: Macrophotography 101

This presentation will introduce participants to the amazing world of macro and close-up photography, its requirements and techniques. Learn how to find, approach and photograph wary creatures in their environment. Techniques to be discussed include magnification factors, exposure compensations, controlling depth of field and backgrounds. Learn the solution to a variety of problems that macrophotographers face in the field, including how to master the light, control the elements and what to do when you forget to pack the macro lens. Macrophotography does not have to be expensive. With today's technology, almost anybody with a camera can explore this fascinating field.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 24, 3:30pm-5:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Reinier Munguia: Photoshop for Nature Photographers

This workshop is especially designed for the nature photographer who wants to make the best use of digital technology.



Deer and Buck. Photo by Jay Byrne Becker

Learn photo touch-up techniques and color solutions for the digital workflow. You will study how to get the best results from your digital or conventional captures and how to solve problems through a series of live demonstrations using real photos. Using Adobe Photoshop® or Adobe Photoshop Elements® you'll learn how to extend the dynamic range, preserve shadows and highlights, use the histograms, use the layer mask, selective blur, remove digital noise, enhance sharpness, control backgrounds, monitor calibration, color correction, printing techniques, remove defects and softening backgrounds. Learn through a series of live demonstrations using real photo situations. All participants will receive a multimedia CD-ROM on Photoshop for Nature Photographers.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 25, 3:15pm-5:15pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Reinier Munguia: Digital Workflow Techniques

Learn how to improve the quality and quantity of your work by controlling your workflow from the field all the way to your desktop. See how software and hardware are fine-tuned to give you what you need when you need it. The presentation covers step-by-step instructions from the image-making process to the final print, including calibration and profiles. Stop wasting time fixing your images and spend more time shooting. Learn the tools available for the nature photographer on the go, including image cataloging software and how to maintain your own online FTP-server for image-sharing when away from home.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 26, 9:00am-10:00am: Gymn Class 123; \$5

Reinier Munguia: Bird Photography 101

Join this workshop full of techniques and in-field experiences to obtain that bird photo you always wanted. Professional photographer Reinier Munguia will share his knowledge and wonderful experiences in the world of bird photography. Get details on how to capture many bird species in a

professional and affordable way. Topics to be covered include equipment (digital vs film), the basic set-up (300mm lens), lens-handling techniques, determining exposure (sunny F16 rule), protecting the highlights, how to obtain sharper images, depth of field, flash techniques (fill flash), the perfect background, capturing birds in flight, how to approach your subject and more. Participants are encouraged to bring sample work and their photo equipment if they have any questions on how to use it properly. Price includes a bird photography multimedia CD-ROM.

www.wildstockphotos.com

Jan. 26, 10:30am-12:00pm: Gym Class 123; \$35

Garry Shorter: Bird Photography Basics

This classroom session will include discussion of techniques for proper exposure, composition and capture of images. We will also discuss storing and proper processing of your images. Session will include some basic discussion on the benefits of RAW capture and processing. We will go over some examples of good and bad images and how to make your images better. Questions are encouraged.

www.fusionphoto.net

Jan. 24, 10:30am-12:00pm: Gym Class 121; \$35

Outdoor Workshops

All outdoor workshops are limited to 12 registrants.

Robert Amoruso: Field Workshop (Birds and More)

Join wildlife and nature photographer Robert Amoruso for a morning of in-depth field instruction at two of the area's best locations for wildlife photography, Black Point Wildlife Drive (Jan. 24 & 25) and Viera Wetlands (Jan. 26). Robert is a protégé of renowned avian photographer Arthur Morris, first as a student and now a co-leader and "posse" member on Artie's instructional photo tours. Robert won the Birds category of the 2006 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Photography Competition. The winning image was displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits/natures_best_2006/gallery/royalalters.html). Bring your cameras, wide-angle lens, longest telephoto lens and a tripod if you have one. Bird photography will be the focus of the workshops, but all natural history subjects we encounter will be fair game. Instruction will include metering/exposure, composition, designing pleasing backgrounds, handling

your equipment, shooting birds in flight and a host of other topics. Cost includes a CD of related material. Are you new to digital photography, unsure what equipment you need for bird photography or how to set up your camera? Does exposure give you fits? Then come to Robert's classroom workshops, "Bird Photography: DSLR Set-up and Equipment Basics" and "Exposing with Digital Cameras" prior to attending his field trips.

www.wildscapeimages.com
www.wildscapeimages.biz (workshop info)

For the two Black Point Wildlife Drive trips, meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway.

Jan. 24, 5:45am-10:00am: \$60

Jan. 25, 1:30pm-6:00pm: \$60

For the Viera Wetlands trip, meet in front of the store entrance to Wal-Mart at 8500 N. Wickham Rd., Viera at 5:45 am. (I-95 exit #191, Wickham Rd. Go west for ¼ mile).

Jan. 26, 5:45am-10:00am: \$60

Kevin Doxstater: Bird & Nature Photography Field Techniques

Take your photography to the next level in a morning bird photography workshop with

Kevin Doxstater. Learn the techniques Kevin uses to create award-winning shots, including exposure, controlling depth of field, capturing action and flight and artistic image composition. A 300mm or longer telephoto or zoom lens is recommended. Bring your wide-angle lens, too, should we get a beautiful sunrise!

www.naturalvisionsphoto.com

Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway.

Jan. 23 & 25, 6:00am-10:30am: \$60

Milton Heiberg: Photography Field Workshop

Drive and stalk along the beautiful water edge of Biolab Road as the sun rises over the lagoon. The leader will be Milton Heiberg, a 30-year veteran of nature photography, teacher of the subject for 20 years at the New York City Audubon Society and now at The Crealde School of Art in Orlando. He is the author of seven books on photography. Many of his students have become well published and noted nature photographers, including Florida's own Arthur Morris. You will receive a gratis copy of Milton's classic book, *The Essentials of Nature Photography*. We will

catch a sunrise over the waters of Mosquito Lagoon, drive, walk and stalk the abundant bird life along the way. Bring tripod and a 300+mm lens.

www.miltonheiberg.com

Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway.

Jan. 25, 26 & 27, 5:45am -10:00am: \$60

Reinier Munguia: Bird Photography Field Workshop

This workshop was developed to enhance your photography skills through in-depth instruction in the field and practice on location. On Jan. 24, we will visit Black Point Wildlife Drive. We'll head down to Viera Wetlands on Jan. 26 & 27 to make use of the best afternoon or morning light while shooting a variety of birds. You'll learn techniques that will help improve your photography, including approaching birds effectively, in-flight techniques, exposure and metering, lens-handling techniques, flash techniques, controlling backgrounds, enhancing sharpness and more. Price includes a bird photography multimedia CD-ROM.

www.wildstockphotos.com



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COCOA BEACH MELBOURNE
PALM BAY TITUSVILLE



photography

For the Black Point Drive trip, meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of Titusville Cswy.

Jan. 24, 5:45am-10:00am

For the two Viera Wetlands trips, meet in front of the lobby of Best Western Space Shuttle Inn (southeast side of the intersection of I-95 and SR 50). On Jan. 26, meet in front of Best Western lobby at 1:00pm. Be there at 5:30am on Jan. 27.

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-5:30pm: \$60

Jan. 27, 5:30am-10:00am: \$60

Garry Shorter: Morning and Afternoon Field Workshop

This workshop will include a minimum of three hours shooting at Black Point Wildlife Drive and Biolab Road (weather and time permitting). Black Point shooting will include stops at various spots to photograph wading birds, including Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Roseate Spoonbill and the occasional Reddish Egret. Other birds may be spotted along the way, including Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Hooded Merganser. Biolab Road will present the opportunity to photograph egrets, herons and pelicans as well as Osprey and alligators. Before we start shooting, we

will go over some basics for capturing good bird images for those new to bird photography. There will also be plenty of time while shooting to ask questions. A telephoto or zoom lens 200mm or greater is recommended. Bring lots of memory cards/film. As lighting in the early morning or late afternoon can be low, a tripod will be very helpful. Allow some time after the shoot to talk about what we shot and to ask any questions you may have.

www.fusionphot.net

Meet in the parking lot for the Parrish Park Boat Ramp (north side - adjacent to the picnic pavilions) at the east end of the Titusville Causeway.

Jan. 23 & 27, 6:00am-10:30am: \$60

Jan. 24, 1:30pm-6:00pm: \$60

Joanne Williams: Photography Field Workshop

Join Joanne Williams, an accomplished professional photographer whose work is seen in numerous national and international publications, for a morning of photography instruction. Practice composition, appropriate equipment settings and learn the techniques Joanne uses. You must have a working knowledge of your camera equipment. Those with digital equipment, beginners and non-

photographers are welcome. Joanne will visit Viera Wetlands on Jan. 24 and 26 and Merritt Island NWR on Jan. 25.

www.joannewilliamsphoto.com

For Viera Wetlands, meet in front of Best Western Space Shuttle Inn at 3455 Cheney Hwy (I-95 and SR 50) at 5:30am.

Jan. 24 & 26, 5:30am-10:00am: \$60

For Merritt Island NWR, meet on the east side of the CVS Pharmacy at 5 Garden Street in Titusville at 5:45 am.

Jan. 25, 5:45am-10:00am: \$60



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© Eric Blackmore

additional activities

Make Your Own Bird Feeder

Sponsored by Ace Hardware of Titusville

Ace Hardware is furnishing the hangers, birdseed and donated liter bottles for this project. You will be able to help your child with placing the hanger in the bottle, filling with birdseed and finding a good spot for hanging in a tree at home. Supplies are located in the lobby area of the Gymnasium.

FREE

Hands-On Wildlife Safari

Sponsored by



**Leader in
Premier Energy Service**

The mission of Hands-On Wildlife Safari is to help preserve the Earth's diversity through the use of "hands-on" education, enlightenment and entertainment. They

have added worldwide affected wildlife to their programs, offering a broader wildlife experience and larger presentation topic base with Florida panther, North American bobcat and African spotted serval cat, along with other reptiles and birds from all over the world.

Our motto is "Education + Experience = Conservation." We believe that as much as 60% more information is retained when a tactile experience is involved along with good education. Our programs combine the facts that our wildlife educators give you... then add being close to one of the world's most impressive and endangered species, the Florida panther, or touching the glossy scales of a Florida king snake for the first time, or hearing the many verbalizations of the spirited and beautiful North American bobcat. You will walk away with the gift of being surprisingly educated while having an experience that you will never forget.

www.hands-on-wildlife.org
www.fpl.com

Jan. 25 & 26, 10:00am-5:00pm: In front of the Gymnasium; Free

Bird Banding Demo

Richard Poole

Wekiva Basin Banding Station

Bird banding is a universal and indispensable technique for studying the movement, survival and behavior of birds. Individual identification of birds makes possible studies of dispersal and migration, behavior and social structure, life span and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth. A master bird bander, Richard works at the Wekiva Basin Banding Station, the longest continuously running bird banding station in Florida. Richard will bring two mist nets to set up in two locations.

<http://home.cfl.rr.com/wekivabirdband>

www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/

Jan. 25; 9:00am-4:00pm; Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center; Free

Jan. 26; 11:30am-4:00pm; Enchanted Forest Sanctuary; Free

Dissection of Barn Owl Pellets or "What's for Dinner?"

**Presenters: Dr. Richard Raid & Jason Martin
Univ. of Fla. Barn Owl Project Coordinators**

Sponsored by

PENTAX

**Durable, Reliable
Optics and Cameras**

This workshop is nature's version of CSI! Have you ever wondered what sort of prey raptors capture and feed on? Due to the alkaline nature of a Barn Owl's stomach, many

of the bones, fur and chitinous parts of a Barn Owl's prey are left undigested. Such remains are routinely regurgitated through the mouth in the form of a compact pellet. By collecting and dissecting these pellets, researchers can find out exactly what these marvelous raptors have been eating. Discover why Barn Owls have frequently been termed the most beneficial bird on the planet. This workshop will enable each adventurous participant to dissect his or her very own owl pellet(s), discovering what lies inside. Then, by comparing skeletal remains with bone charts, you will be able to figure out exactly what a Barn Owl eats. With some collaborative sleuthing, participants may even discover what type of ecosystem is inhabited by the owls that spit up these pellets. Think picking through owl regurgitation is disgusting? Think again! Believe it or not, pellet dissection is a favorite lesson at many schools throughout the nation. Adults, but especially kids of all ages, will find this workshop highly entertaining and informative. Sterilized owl pellets, dissecting tools and bone charts will be furnished to all participants free of charge.



Tortoise and Kids. Photo by Joel Reynolds

<http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/barnowl/owlindex.htm>
www.pentaximaging.com

Requires pre-registration

Jan. 26, 8:30am-10:00am: BCC Outside Gazebo; Free

House of Dreams: If You Build It, They Will Come!

**Presenters: Dr. Richard Raid & Jason Martin
Univ. of Fla. Barn Owl Project Coordinators**

Sponsored by

PENTAX

**Durable, Reliable
Optics and Cameras**

Barn Owls, as can be deciphered from their very name, love man-made structures. Referred to as "cavity nesters," Barn Owls take readily to nesting boxes. This workshop

will display and discuss a number of Barn Owl nesting box designs constructed of assorted materials. Additionally, tips on nesting box placement will be provided to enhance the likelihood of colonization. Nesting box display models and schematics for a number of other owl species, namely Eastern Screech-Owls, Barred Owls and Burrowing Owls, will be available for those whose land may be better suited for those particular species. The workshop will also provide participants interested in assisting these wonderful raptors with an opportunity to get personally involved. Volunteers will construct nesting boxes on site for future placement throughout the state. Tools and construction materials will be supplied by the University of Florida's Barn Owl Project. Adults take note: This workshop represents an ideal opportunity for kids who love to work with tools. Help them acquire the "sense of contribution" that you gain in knowing that you have donated time and effort for a worthy cause.

<http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu/barnowl/owlindex.htm>
www.pentaximaging.com

Requires pre-registration

Jan. 26, 11:00am-12:30pm: BCC Outside Gazebo; Free

Family Activities at the Enchanted Forest

Hosted by the Brevard Co. Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and Friends of the Enchanted Forest

Titusville's 428-acre Enchanted Forest Sanctuary is the flagship property for the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program. Preserving a significant sample of the natural communities that originated and remain in this region, the incredible diversity of this area is found throughout the Sanctuary's varied habitats, which include xeric oak scrub,



additional activities

mature hardwood forests, wetlands and pine flatwoods. In one of the few places in Central Florida where subtropical and temperate plant species are found together, visitors can also see the exposed layers of coquina rock that form the Atlantic Coastal Ridge.

www.brevardparks.com/eel
www.enchantedforestfriends.org

All activities take place at the Enchanted Forest. Meet at the Education Center.

Pre-registration required for each activity.

Directions: Go south on U.S. 1 through Titusville. About a mile south of town, go west on SR 405. The entrance is on the right, about 1/3 mile west of U.S. 1.

Jan. 26, 12:00pm-5:00pm

Plants and Their Uses through History from Ancient to Modern Times

Trip Leaders: Jay Barnhart and Jim Stahl
Friends of the Enchanted Forest

Learn to identify various native plants found in the Sanctuary, as well as practical information regarding their values and uses through the centuries. Your leisurely guided walk will begin on the well-named Biodiversity Loop Trail, which passes through dry scrub areas as it gently ascends to the sandy, higher elevation known as the Atlantic Coastal Ridge. From there it descends to humid wetlands and across a boardwalk that passes over a swampy ecosystem where the black topsoil is known as Tomoka muck. This will bring you to the beginning of the Magnolia Loop Trail, where you will continue under a dense mature forest canopy of large southern

magnolias and stately old oak trees. Traveling these diverse ecosystems will introduce you to many of our treasured Enchanted Forest Sanctuary plants as we provide interesting stories associated with them. Your interpreters for this session will be trail guide volunteer and avid mushroom hobbyist Jay Barnhart and retired land manager and biologist Jim Stahl.

Jan. 26, 12:00pm-2:30pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Forest Wildlife

Trip Leader: Joanie Faulks

EEL Enchanted Forest Sanctuary Steward

Some of the wildlife at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary include butterflies, dragonflies, tree frogs, gopher tortoises, scrub lizards, eagles, bobcat, Florida mice and white-tailed deer. Come hike the trails to look for wildlife, their tracks and other signs of their presence.

Jan. 26, 1:00pm-2:00pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

Reptiles

Presenter: Paul Schlueb

Friends of the Enchanted Forest

Explore the fascinating and often misunderstood world of reptiles. The presentation will cover reptile classification and physiology, stressing their ecological importance. Learn about various endangered species and what you can do to help reptile conservation. Learn about exotic and invasive species. Some of our interesting local species will be showcased for observation. Information will be presented on venomous

species, trying to dispel the many myths that surround these strange creatures.

Jan. 26, 2:00pm-3:00pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

What is Biodiversity?

Trip Leaders: Certified Guides from the Membership of the Friends of the Enchanted Forest

Explore three unique ecosystems. Learn about the plant and animals that live in the Sanctuary and contribute to the biodiversity of the area. The adaptations of these plants and animals will also be discussed and compared. How do animals that live in the hot, sunny xeric oak scrub ecosystem find water? How do plants that survive in the flooded hydric hammock ecosystem adapt to their surroundings? Join this guided hike to find out. Interactive educational activities will be conducted along the trail with the entire group.

Jan. 26, 3:00pm-4:00pm: Up to 3 guided hikes, each limited to 20 registrants; Free

Beneficial Bats

Presenter: Shari Blissett-Clark

EEL North Region Land Mgmt. Technician

Take a journey into the amazing world of bats and learn the truth about these fascinating mammals. Discussions will "bust" popular myths and misconceptions surrounding bats, such as blindness, blood drinking and disease risks. Learn about the real behavior of bats and why they are crucial to a healthy environment and beneficial to mankind.

Jan. 26, 4:00pm-5:00pm: Limited to 20 registrants; Free

registration information

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Register early to avoid missing out on a favorite field trip, workshop or special activity. You DO NOT register for seminars or workshops that cost \$5 - these costs are included in your Registration Fee. All seating adheres to Fire Code specifications per room. There will be no standing or sitting on tables or the floor.

Welcome bags and lanyards may be picked up at Festival Headquarters - BCC Titusville - from 1pm to 5pm on Tue., Jan. 22, 2008. No changes in registrations can be made on that day. Welcome bags and lanyards will also be available for pick up each day at the Registration Desk.

Registration Fee

The Festival Registration Fee is \$40, and allows you to attend the Opening Reception (\$10), all Afternoon Socials (\$7.50 each), all Seminars and \$5 Workshops (\$5 each). The One-Day Registration Fee is \$20, and allows

you to attend the Afternoon Social (\$7.50), all Seminars and \$5 Workshops (\$5 each) for the one day that you attend the Festival.

Register by Mail or Fax

To register by mail or fax, complete the Registration Form in this program or print out the form found on the Festival web site (www.nbbd.com/fly). Each person must register. Payment may be made by check, money order, or VISA or MasterCard. **Please make a copy of your registration for your own records.** Watch the Festival web site for updates on activities that are filled, reopened, or cancelled. Mailed or faxed registrations will be processed in the order received. Mailed registrations must be received by Jan. 19, 2008. Faxed registrations will not be accepted after Jan. 19, 2008. After that date, you may register at the Festival for any activities that are available.

Register Online

Go to www.nbbd.com/fly - click on the link to Registration and follow the easy fill-in-the-blank instructions. Individual cancelled

Registrations may cause filled activities to reopen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration at the Festival

You may register at the Festival for activities that are available.

Cancellations (by phone, email or fax) and Refunds

- Cancellations made by Jan. 11, 2008 will receive a full refund less a \$10 processing charge.
- Cancellations made Jan. 12 - 22, 2008 will receive a 50% refund less a \$10 processing charge.
- Once the Festival starts, no refunds will be given unless the Festival cancels an activity.
- The Festival reserves the right to cancel an activity or substitute an activity when necessary. If an activity is cancelled, a refund will be given for that activity only.
- All refunds will be processed within 30 - 60 days following the end of the Festival.

Registration by mail or fax will be confirmed by email or telephone. No confirmations made after Jan. 16, 2008.

registration

11th Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival January 23-28, 2008 • Brevard Community College - Titusville Campus

Please call Neta Harris • 321-268-5224 (local area calls) • 800-460-2664 (out of area/out of state calls)
or email neta@natureandspace.com

Please review the Registration Information on the previous page before completing this form.

USE ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON OR REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.NBBD.COM/FLY

Please print legibly. Retain a copy of the completed form for your records.

Attendee Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/District _____ Country _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

Check appropriate category if you are: ☐ Patron ☐ Sponsor ☐ Speaker ☐ Trip Leader ☐ Exhibitor ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Under 16

Are you a first-time attendee? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, how many times have you attended? _____ How many in your party? _____

How did you learn about this Festival? (please be specific) _____

Please specify your accommodations for the Festival: ☐ Hotel ☐ Camp ☐ RV ☐ Condo ☐ Relative ☐ Other _____

How many nights will you be staying? (and add'l stay info) _____

Please specify your transportation to the Festival: ☐ Fly ☐ Drive ☐ Rental Car ☐ Other _____

Note: All activities are listed by date. Indicate a 2nd Choice in case your 1st Choice is filled.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

South Brevard County	65.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Lake Monroe CA	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Viera Wetlands	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Tosohatchee WMA	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Marl Bed Flats	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	North Brevard Hot Spots	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Black Rails	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Gull ID at Tomoka Landfill	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Plants of North Brevard	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Amoruso: Exp. Digital Cameras	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Doxstater: Image Editing 1	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Doxstater: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Munguia: Nature Photo	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Shorter: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
				Keynote: Moran	10.00	☐	

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

South Brevard County	65.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Zellwood/Lake Apopka	70.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Little Big Econ	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Tosohatchee WMA	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
North Brevard Hot Spots	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Marl Bed Flats	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Black Rails	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Shorebirds by Impression	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Center for Birds of Prey	N/A	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Beginning Birding	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Dicerandra Scrub Walk	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Taylor: Digiscoping Field WS	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Amoruso: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Doxstater: Image Editing 2	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Munguia: Macrophoto	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Munguia: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Shorter: Bird Photo Basics	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Shorter: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Williams: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Keynote: Bouton	10.00	☐	

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

Central Florida Specialties	70.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Zellwood/Lake Apopka	70.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Viera Wetlands	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	North Brevard Hot Spots	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Tosohatchee WMA	40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Canaveral Marshes/Blue Heron	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Black Rails	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Historical Sites CNS	50.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Waterfowl 101	20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Plants of North Brevard	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Birding by Impression	25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Florida Scrub Jays	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Amoruso: Bird Photo DSLR	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Amoruso: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Doxstater: Image Editing 3	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Doxstater: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Munguia: Photoshop	35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Heiberg: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Taylor: Digiscoping Field WS	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Williams: Photo Field WS	60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
				Keynote: Gordon	10.00	☐	

Note: All activities are listed by date.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008

Central Florida Specialties	\$70.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Zellwood/Lake Apopka	\$70.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Hal Scott Preserve	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Viera Wetlands	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
North Brevard Hot Spots	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Marl Bed Flats	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Birding By Ear	\$25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Ancient & Modern Mariners	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Waterfowl 101	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Beach Birds	\$35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Florida Scrub Jays	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Dissect Owl Pellets	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Build an Owl House	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Beginning Birding	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Afternoon Hayride	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Plants and Their Uses	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Forest Wildlife	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Reptiles	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
What is Biodiversity?	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Beneficial Bats	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Taylor: Digiscoping Field WS	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Amoruso: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Heiberg: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Williams: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Munguia: Bird Photo 101	\$35.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Munguia: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
				Keynote: Karlson	\$10.00	☐	

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2008

Hal Scott Preserve	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Viera Wetlands	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Marl Bed Flats	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Canaveral Marshes/Blue Heron	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Birding by Ear	\$25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Shorebirds by Impression	\$25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Gull ID at Tomoka Landfill	\$25.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Waterfowl 101	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Center for Birds of Prey	N/A	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Wild Side of KSC	\$40.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Hike Lake Proctor	Free	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Munguia: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Heiberg: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Sunday Social - adult (inc. keynote)	\$20.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
Shorter: Photo Field WS	\$60.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd	Sunday Social (under 12)	\$5.00	☐ 1st	☐ 2nd
				Keynote Only: Acorn	\$10.00	☐	

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

☐ Pelagic Birding Trip \$115.00 Activity will NOT be charged to your credit card or your check cashed until the trip begins.

PAYMENT INFORMATION - Registration plus Activities

MasterCard or VISA only - No Debit Cards

Registration Fee (covers entry to Opening Reception, Afternoon Socials, Seminars, and \$5 Workshops) \$40.00 \$ _____

One-Day Registration Fee (covers entry to Reception or Social, Seminars, and \$5 Workshops for one day only) \$20.00 \$ _____

Registration Fee is FREE if you are under age 16 and accompanied by an adult FREE \$ _____ FREE _____

Total Activities Costs (1st Choice only) \$ _____ Total Costs (1st Choice only Activities plus Registration Fee) \$ _____

Check Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Credit Card Type ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Cardholder Name _____

Credit Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration Date (mm/yyyy) _____

Security Code (3 digits) _____ PIN Code (required for corporate cards) _____

Print Cardholder Name _____ Cardholder Signature _____

By your signature, you authorize a charge to your credit card for the amount listed above.

PAYMENT INFORMATION - Pelagic Birding Trip

MasterCard or VISA only - No Debit Cards

Pelagic Birding (Activity will NOT be charged to your credit card or your check cashed until the trip begins.) \$115.00 \$ _____

Check Number _____ Amount \$ _____ If paying by check, please write a separate check for this activity.

Credit Card Type ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA Cardholder Name _____

Credit Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration Date (mm/yyyy) _____

Security Code (3 digits) _____ PIN Code (required for corporate cards) _____

Print Cardholder Name _____ Cardholder Signature _____

By your signature, you authorize a charge to your credit card for the amount listed above.

Credit Card registrations may be faxed to 321-268-0921 OR mailed to the address below.

Make checks payable to BNA/SCBWF. Mail to Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival, P.O.Box 517, Titusville, Florida 32781-0517.

ALLOW MAIL ADEQUATE TIME TO ARRIVE BEFORE 1/19/08. FAXED REGISTRATIONS NOT ACCEPTED AFTER 1/19/08.

For quick registration, go to www.nbbd.com/fly and register online.

©schwf2007

activities for families

Photos on this page
by Ray Scory

Although all of the Festival activities are suitable for young people, many stand out as being especially attractive for kids. Youth under 16 years of age are admitted free to all seminars, \$5.00 workshops and keynote presentations when accompanied by a paying adult.

*Please see the Field Trips, Seminars, Workshops and Photography descriptions and the Schedule of Activities for dates, times and locations. Field Trips will require registration and payment for the trip charge when applicable, as there are seating limits and associated transportation costs. * denotes activities that require pre-registration.*

Raptor Project

Sponsored by Nikon Sport Optics

See the world's largest collection of traveling winged predators! Location: BCC Gymnasium Stage.

Free Show times:

Jan. 24 – 12:00pm & 2:00pm

Jan. 25 – 9:30am & 1:00pm & 3:30pm

Jan. 26 – 10:00am & 2:00pm & 3:30pm

Make Your Own Bird Feeder

Sponsored by Ace Hardware of Titusville

*** Beginning Birding:**

Jan. 24 8:00am-12:00pm

Jan. 26 1:00pm-5:00pm

*** Special Tour of Audubon Center for Birds of Prey**

Jan. 24 & 27, 9:00am-11:30pm

*** Dicerandra Scrub Sanctuary Walk**

Jan. 24, 9:00am-12:00pm

*** Afternoon Hayride MINWR**

Jan. 26, 2:00pm-5:30pm

*** Historical Sites of Canaveral National Seashore Field Trip**

Jan. 25, 8:30am-5:00pm

*** Florida Scrub-Jays Class and Field Trip**

Jan. 25 & 26, 8:00am-12:30pm

*** Dissection of Barn Owl Pellets or "What's For Dinner?"**

Jan. 26, 8:30am-10:00am

*** Owl House of Dreams: If You Build It, They Will Come!**

Jan. 26, 11:00am-12:30pm

*** Ancient & Modern Mariners Field Trip**

Jan. 26, 8:00am-5:00pm

Enchanted Forest Family Activities

Jan. 26, 12:00pm-5:00pm

*** Plants and Their Uses through History**

*** Forest Wildlife**

*** Reptiles**

*** What is Biodiversity?**

*** Beneficial Bats**

Hands-On Wildlife Safari

Jan. 25 & 26, 10:00am-5:00pm

Bird Banding

Jan. 25, Merritt Island NWR Visitor Center: 9:00am-4:00pm

Jan. 26, Enchanted Forest: 11:30am-4:00pm

These seminars will be interesting for kids and do not require pre-registration.

World of Bats

Eagles in Florida

Barn Owls: Farmer's Friend, Teacher's Pet

A New World for Gopher Tortoises

Penguins of the World

South Georgia – Island of Ice and Penguins

Life of Birds

Parrots of South Florida



Interpretations of Nature
Beautiful Birds/Beautiful Music 2
Beautiful Nature/Beautiful Music 2
Seabirds & Marine Mammals of Monterey Bay
Madagascar
Threatened & Endangered Birds of Florida
The Valdes Peninsula, Its Birds & Mammals
The Windover Site: A Glimpse of Life in Florida 7,000 Years Ago
Canada's Arctic: The Yukon, Northwest Territories and the Dempster Highway
The Unique Galapagos Islands: A Real Alive Museum
Wildlife of the Brazilian Pantanal and Cerrado

Reminder: Next year's Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival will be held on January 21-26, 2009!



Titusville

Enjoy Your Stay

A Place
For Discovery

Historic Downtown

Canaveral
National Seashore

Titusville
Municipal Marina

Restaurants and
Antique Shops

North Brevard
Historical Museum

Enchanted Forest

Warbird Museum

spacewalkoffame.com



A City of Service

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