

## 2008 - 2009 Monthly Meetings

Program meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday, and are held at The Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg (unless other-wise noted). Programs are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. Call 384-0027 for directions.

**September 16 - "CLIMATE CHANGE - A CALL TO ACTION"** - Roberta Fernandez, *The Climate Project*

**October 21 - "BUTTERFLIES OF MEXICO"** - Buck and Linda Cooper, naturalists-Florida Natural Areas Inventory

**November 18 - "SWALLOWTAIL KITES IN PINELLAS AND BEYOND"** - Gina Zimmerman, Research Ecologist and Coordinator, Avian Research and Conservation Institute

**December 10 - (Wed.) "CONSERVATION CELEBRATION"** with Florida Native Plant Society. "Florida-Magnificent Wilderness" - speaker James Valentine, Quest Foundation, at Pinellas County Extension, 12521 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

**January 5 (Mon., 7:30 p.m.) - "IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER PROJECT"** - with Clearwater Audubon, Ron Rohrbaugh, Project Director, Cornell University, at Unitarian Universalist of Clearwater, 2470 Nursery Rd.(north side), Clearwater. Located between U.S. 19 & Belcher

**February 17 - "BURROWING OWLS-THE WISE & THE WHIMSICAL"** - Dan Tudor, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

**March 17 - "CREATING A BACKYARD HABITAT WITH FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS"** Bruce Turley, Wilcox Nursery, owner, and member of Pinellas Native Plant Society. There will be native plants from the nursery for sale at the meeting.

**April 18 - "SPAS CENTENNIAL BANQUET"** Time and location to be announced. Reservations required.

**Mar. 14-15 - Boyd Hill Wildlife Weekend** - 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Pete. Environmental displays, tours, and programs for all ages. Visit [www.stpete.org/boyd](http://www.stpete.org/boyd) for more information. Call Wanda Dean to volunteer, 321-3995.

**Mar. 27-29 - Audubon Academy - Haines City, FL** - Audubon leadership training, field trips, and special speakers. Watch newsletter for details.

**Mar. 28 - "Here Birdie Birdies" - Ft. DeSoto Park (W/22/91)** - Meet 8 a.m. at the flagpole at park headquarters. We'll look for "early" migrants. Who knows, we just might find "the good one!" Leader: TBA. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Apr. 4 - "Spring has Sprung" - Honeymoon Island State Park (W/20/83)** - Meet 7:30 a.m., parking lot behind McDonald's, Alt. US 19 and Curlew Rd., at park entrance. \$5/car. Leader: Lillian Kenney. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Apr. 25 - "Round Robin Birding"- Ft. DeSoto Park (W/22/91)** - Meeting place, flagpole, park headquarters, at 8:00 a.m. to form teams and receive instructions. Maximize the birding potential of 4 different locations in the park. Leader: Lee Snyder. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Apr. 25 - Marine Quest** - Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute open house, 100 - 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E., St. Petersburg. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call Wanda Dean, 321-3995, to volunteer.

**May 2-3 - Living Green Expo** - Harborview Center, Clearwater. This 2-day event will provide information, ideas, resources, and products to support a more sustainable lifestyle. Call Wanda Dean, 321-3995, to volunteer. For more info. - <http://www.pinellaslivinggreenexpo.org/>

**May 9 - North American Migratory Count (NAMC)**. All levels of experienced birders needed to count species and individual birds throughout Pinellas County. Call Mauri Peterson, 398-4124, to volunteer.

**May 10 - Coffepot Bayou Bird Island Boat Trip**. \$20. Get a close look at an island rookery at the height of nesting season. Meet at the St. Pete. Pier by the bait house at 6:30 p.m. For reservations call Alice Tenney, 894-2062.

**May-July Survey of Beach/Rooftop Nesting Birds**

### 2008-2009 Officers

**PRESIDENT** - Mauri Peterson .... 398-4124  
**VICE PRESIDENT** - Maureen Arnold .... 577-0448  
**SECRETARY** - Nancy Ogden .... 894-5940  
**TREASURER** - Rick Potter .... 822-9637

### Directors

**Harold Albers ... 864-1113**    **Mary Brazier ... 867-7151**  
**Wanda Dean ... 321-3995**    **Judi Hopkins ... 526-3725**  
**Barb Howard ... 343-1272**  
**Dave Kandz ... 471-0699**    **Mark Mueller .... 686-3179**  
**Jeanne Murphy ... 397-2306**  
**Lee Snyder ... 865-2293**    **Alice Tenney ... 894-2062**

## About St. Petersburg Audubon

*The mission of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society is to promote environmental education and, through responsible activism, to protect, restore and preserve natural ecosystems for both people and wildlife.*

St. Petersburg Audubon Society (SPAS) was founded in 1909 as part of the crusade by Florida and National Audubon Society to save wading birds from extinction. The birds' feathers, "aigrettes," and wings were used to decorate women's hats. Plans are underway to celebrate our centennial in 2009.

SPAS continues to provide conservation leadership and educational opportunities through weekly field trips and monthly programs, as well as through advocacy and volunteerism. Funds raised each year provide the Audubon Adventures program to 4th grade classes in south Pinellas County. Scholarships to National Audubon Ecology Camps are awarded to local teachers, and Science Fair winners receive monetary awards.

The December meeting with the Pinellas Native Plant Society has become an important event, bringing together the environmental community for celebration and education.

Since 1992, SPAS volunteers have observed and protected habitats for shorebirds on Shell Key, and participated in the establishment of the Shell Key County Preserve. Concern for beach-nesting birds led to a comprehensive study of these species in partnership with Eckerd College, Pinellas County staff, and public land managers. Bird Stewards now mark and monitor colonies, provide protection and public education on high beach-use weekends, and census breeding populations. Rooftop-nesters also are aided by volunteers who work with building owners and monitor colonies.

Data is collected on birds through the annual Migratory and Christmas Bird Counts. Bird-watchers of all levels of expertise are invited to participate in these counts.

An active Conservation Committee monitors and takes action on local, state and national conservation issues, pursuing environmentally-sound solutions.

**Join us!** Use the membership form provided to join National Audubon, Audubon of Florida, and SPAS. You're welcome to participate in all of our activities.

**Visit our website - [www.stpeteaudubon.org](http://www.stpeteaudubon.org) - for updates, the contents of the monthly newsletters, links to useful information, and much more.**

St. Petersburg Audubon thanks Lightning Print for donating the printing of this program

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## 2008-2009 Annual Program and Field Trip List of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society



POST OFFICE BOX 49087  
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33743-9087  
[www.stpeteaudubon.org](http://www.stpeteaudubon.org)

## Schedule of Field Trips, Special Events, and Monthly Meeting Topics

**WILDLIFE PROTECTION** - Birds and other wildlife, with few exceptions, are protected by Federal and State law. Severe fines and/or imprisonment can result from disturbing birds, nests, eggs and young.

Use of firearms and BB guns is illegal in all of Pinellas County. Violators should be reported to the Sheriff's office by calling 582-6200.

**WILDLIFE ALERT REWARD PROGRAM** - In Florida there is a reward for promptly reporting wildlife problems, violations, and suspicious activities to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - call toll-free 1-888-404-3922.

**We invite you to join us!** Your membership dues make you a member of the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida, and St. Petersburg Audubon. You will receive National's *AUDUBON* magazine, Audubon of Florida's *FLORIDA NATURALIST*, and St. Petersburg Audubon's monthly newsletter, the *WINGSPAN*. Your participation in field trips, programs, volunteer efforts and conservation advocacy is most welcome.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP  
**\$20.00** (New membership only)



- Please enroll me as a member in the National Audubon Society. Start my subscription to *AUDUBON* magazine & send my membership card.
- I do not wish to receive *AUDUBON* magazine.
- I wish to receive the *WINGSPAN* electronically.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ **E06 7XCH**

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please enclose a check, payable to the National Audubon Society, and mail to:*

St. Petersburg Audubon Society  
Post Office Box 49087  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-9087

- National Audubon occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you may find interesting. To have your name omitted from this list, please check here.

**This form is only for new memberships, not membership renewal.**

**2008 - 2009 SPAS FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS** - These field trips are open to anyone interested in birding, wildlife watching, photography, and exploring natural areas that remain in Florida. Advance registration is appreciated but not required, **except** for trips noted. For all birding field trips, unless otherwise stated, bring a bag lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, binoculars, and dress for the weather. **Please** call \*Judi Hopkins, 727-526-3725, or e-mail [focus997@verizon.net](mailto:focus997@verizon.net), for information, directions, reservations, or concerns. For other trips/events, see contact person listed. (Letters and numbers in parentheses are coordinates—maps will be distributed at meeting place and will be available at monthly meetings.)

**Sept. 6 - Breakfast with the Birds - Seminole Lake Park, Park Blvd., Seminole.** Meet 8 a.m., picnic shelter #10 (first right after entering park) for a continental-style breakfast before bird walk. Leader/Contact: Mauri Peterson, 398-4124.

**Sept. 20 - North American Migratory Count (NAMC).** All levels of experienced birders needed to count species and individual birds throughout Pinellas County. Call **Mauri Peterson** to volunteer, 398-4124.

**Sept. 20 - Birding Ft. DeSoto Park (W/22/91)** - Meet 8 a.m. at flagpole at park headquarters. Spend the morning in search of swallows, warblers, flycatchers, and shorebirds. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Sept. 27 - Target Birding - "Fall Warblers" - John Chesnut Sr. Park (W/20/82)** - Meet 8 a.m., first restroom on the left, after the first stop sign in park. A great park for finding difficult-to-identify fall warblers, along the eastern edge of Lake Tarpon. Slow-paced morning getting back to the basics of fall warbler identification. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Oct. 4 - Target Birding - "Terns, Terns, Terns" - Ft. DeSoto Park (W/22/91)** - Meet 4 p.m., flagpole at park headquarters. View hundreds, if not thousands, of terns as they come to roost in the late afternoon along Florida's west coast. Come hungry as an after-birding trip to Jo-Jo's (Italian Restaurant) finishes the field trip. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins to reserve your spot for dinner.

**Oct. 18 - Birding Celery Fields and Ackerman Park (S/3/4)** - Exit 220 off Interstate 75 South. Meet on the south side of parking lot at Cracker Barrel Restaurant by 7:30 a.m., or 6 a.m. if you want to eat breakfast, 45 mins. from St. Pete. This open landscape that is a county-owned flood mitigation area has proven to be one of the birding hotspots. We will be scoping from the gazebo and walking the berm trail system. Waterproof boots or old shoes are recommended. There are no facilities in this area. Leader: Jeanne Dubi. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Oct. 19 - Fall Wine & Cheese Sunset Cruise** aboard the catamaran, *Albion*, with Capt. Alva. Cruise the inter-coastal waterways, while enjoying a glass of wine, then watch the sunset over Shell Key. Meet at Merry Pier, 801 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete. Beach. Space limited. Call Barb Ranck, 374-7039, for time and reservations. \$30 donation per person.

**Oct. 23-25 - Audubon Assembly - Plantation Inn Golf Resort & Spa, Crystal River.** Field trips, seminars, workshops, and special speakers. Network with Audubon staff, chapter leaders, scientists, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, agencies, and elected officials. Details at <http://www.audubonofflorida.org>. \$\$

**Nov. 1-2 - Art Arbor Festival** at Boyd Hill Nature Park, 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Pete. Environmental displays, tours, and programs. Visit [www.stpete.org/boyd](http://www.stpete.org/boyd) for more information. Call Wanda Dean to volunteer, 321-3995.

**Nov. 8 - Target Birding - "Brown-headed Nuthatch" - J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park (W/18/72)** - Meet 8 a.m. at information kiosk inside park. A leisurely walk along a paved trail. Starkey Wilderness is the home of our target species, the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Plan, too, for Eastern Bluebirds, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers, and birds of prey. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Nov 28 - 30 - Birding excursion - Wakulla County and St. Marks (P/24)** - There is **limited** availability for this 3-day panhandle adventure to St. Mark's NWR, Alligator Point, and Bald Point State Park. Birds of interest include many species of ducks, shorebirds, loons, sparrows, wrens, and owls. This excursion will start at 1:00 p.m. sharp at a new and beautiful "green hotel" in Crawfordville on Fri. the 28<sup>th</sup>, and ends at noon on Sun. the 30<sup>th</sup>. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins for hotel reservation info. Driving time from St. Pete is 5 hours.

**Dec 6 - Birding Boyd Hill Nature Preserve (W/22/92)** - Meet 8 a.m. in Nature Center parking lot. With a bird list approaching 210 species, Boyd Hill NP is St. Pete.'s jewel of a park where anything might turn up. Leader: Ron Smith. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Dec. 13-14 - Scout for Christmas Bird Count** - Contact Don Margeson to volunteer, 572-0227.

**Dec. 20 - 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count.** Participate in a day of full contact birding. Call Don Margeson to volunteer, 572-0227. Countdown dinner 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, 2285 Ulmerton Rd., Feather Sound. Dave Goodwin, compiler.

**Jan 1 - Rich Paul New Year's Day Birding Open.** Bird in the New Year at Ft. DeSoto Park from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. All donations to benefit Audubon of Florida's Coastal Island Sanctuary. Create a team or bird on your own. Chili, bread, and drinks provided. Bring a dessert to share. Shelter #13. Contact Mauri Peterson for lunch reservations: [maurip@aol.com](mailto:maurip@aol.com), or 727-398-4124.

**Jan 3 - Birding trip back in time to Zellwood - Limited space.** Contact \*Judi Hopkins for directions and meeting place. **Two-hour car trip to area.** Birding will start at 8 a.m. For over 50 years the Zellwood area has been one of the premier "Hot Spots" for Florida birders. The 20,000 acres is administered by St. Johns River Water Management District. Many rare species have been found there over the years including first state records. Most of the area is restricted to the general public. Leaders: Wes Biggs, Dave Goodwin, and Harold Weatherman.

**Jan. 17-18-19 - Camping at Koreshan State Park - Corkscrew Swamp Back Country Tour** - A weekend of hiking, birding, and famous "potluck spaghetti" dinner. Call Wanda Dean, 321-3995, for tour, and Frank Pattie, 397-3952, for camping. **Reserve early- space limited.**

**Jan./Feb. - Shorebird Classes** - Learn to identify those cryptic winter shorebirds with John Ogden and Maureen Arnold. \$30 for 3 classes. Watch newsletter for dates and details. Call Maureen Arnold to register, 577-0448.

**Jan. 24 - Target Birding - "Duck Hunting"** - Visit various water holes in search of wintering ducks. Meet at 7:30 a.m., place TBA. We will end the morning at the Tierra Verde ponds, then go to JoJo's for lunch and countdown. Contact \*Judi Hopkins for meeting place. Leader: Doug Clark.

**Feb 7 - Target Birding - "Limpkins" - Roosevelt Wetlands** - Meet 8 a.m. at wetlands, 43<sup>rd</sup> St. and 110<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Diverse wetland area. Over 100 species have been recorded in this small area. After birding, we will have lunch at Kozy Korner and do our count down. Leader: TBA. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Feb. 14-15-16 - Great Backyard Bird Count.** See newsletter for details or contact Maureen Arnold, 577-0448.

**Feb. 15-16-17 - Merritt Island NWR, Titusville, FL.** - Bird the refuge, Blue Heron Wetlands, and local hot spots. Stay at Best Western Space Shuttle Inn. Space is limited. Call Mauri Peterson for reservations and costs, 398-4124.

**Feb 21 - Target Bird - "Burrowing Owl!"** - Carpool to Cape Coral for the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Burrowing Owl Festival. They also have a butterfly tent and native plant sale. If enough interest, this can be turned into an overnigher. Watch newsletter for details. Leader: Dave Kandz. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Feb 28 - Birding Trip - STA5 area in Clewiston (S/16/47)** Constructed to filter agricultural runoff from water destined for the Everglades. Expect to see ducks, shorebirds, and waders. Restricted to guided driving tours. Meeting spot will be McDonald's in Clewiston, 905 W. Sugarland Hwy - **7:30 a.m.** From St. Pete. it is a 2-1/2 hour trip. We will enter as a group to STA5 area. Leader: Lee Snyder. Contact: \*Judi Hopkins.

**Mar 14 - Florida Specialties Bus Trip** - Back by popular demand! Join Dave Goodwin and Mauri Peterson for a daylong bus trip to look for 8-10 target birds rarely found anywhere else, plus many more. This year's trip will follow a different route and will include lunch at Forever Florida. Call Mauri at 727-398-4124 for cost and reservations.