

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 1

St. Lucie Audubon Society

Fostering appreciation of nature in St Lucie County, Florida, since 1954



The Laughing Gull

President's Message

By Ellen Lynch

I wanted to reach out to you, our members. You may, as I have, been feeling a little uncertain about the future, and I wanted to make sure all of you knew that our Board and Elected Officers are working to keep you informed and involved in the coming months. Our regular in-person meetings will not be offered for now, but we are going to provide you with the best online meetings we can each month. We will be using the Zoom app to provide you with interesting speakers and topics.

Our Program Chair, Kevin Hinkle, is working diligently to find speakers for our meetings under these special circumstances. Ed Bowes will be handling the technology portion of the Zoom Program. You will receive an invitation to join the meeting by email from slas.zoom.meeting@gmail.com. Check your Junk mail if you do not receive an invitation for Thursday, October 1st at 7 PM. The invitation was included with the newsletter, too. If you do not have a Zoom account, you will need to create one to join the meeting using an email address and a password. Joining Zoom is free, and you will be able to watch the meeting using your computer or dial in to listen via phone. You can find more information about joining Zoom meetings at the end of this message.

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Photo by Dan Marinelli

Thursday, Oct. 1:

Speaker: John Nelson

The October speaker will be John Nelson. He will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the making of his film "America's Amazon: The Story of the St. Lucie River."

Field Trips Canceled until further notice. We hope to be able to resume our trips soon!



**"To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival."
~ Wendell Berry**

The Laughing Gull

President's Message (continued)

BY ELLEN LYNCH

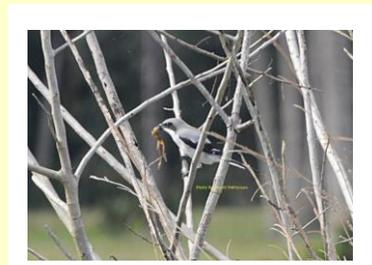
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Please use our website to keep up-to-date on projects and speakers. Our Webmaster, Mary Dodge, does a great job of keeping this resource current. Our newsletters will also be sent out as usual and will provide you with updates and interesting topics.

I am hoping we will actually get more of you to join our meetings since some of you are still "up north." You may find it easier to participate with virtual meetings. I look forward to "meeting" with you on October 1st!

Ellen Lynch

Video tutorial for How to Join a [Zoom Meeting](#).



Chapter Dues

The year for local chapter dues runs January to January. Dues can be paid by check or credit card on our Web site: <http://stlucieaudubon.org>

- Individual: \$25
- Family (2 or more people): \$30
- Sponsor: \$50
- Patron: \$100

The Laughing Gull

Photo by Ed Bowes

Citizen Science

BY ED BOWES

The days are getting a bit shorter and the migratory birds are appearing! The swallows and warblers have already started to arrive, which means our local Bald Eagles will be returning to nest. Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program is a statewide network of citizen science volunteers who monitor Bald Eagle nests from October to May. Training is required to participate in EagleWatch, and the trainings are virtual this year. Upcoming training dates include Saturday, September 26 10 AM to 12 noon and Sunday, October 4 from 2 to 4 PM. Visit <https://stlucieaudubon.org> for more details.

The Florida Keys Hawkwatch in Curry Hammock State Park started last week! More Peregrine Falcons pass over this state park in Florida than any other site in the world. You can visit the count site or follow the daily counts on www.hawkcount.org

Fall migration means it is almost time for **Project Feederwatch!** This seasonal bird count sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology begins November 14th and runs until April 9, 2021. Participants count birds that visit feeders or food plants in their yards for two days each week. The numbers are then reported to the Cornell Lab. If you feed birds in the winter, please consider participating! Visit <https://feederwatch.org>

Nature's Notebook is part of the USA National Phenology Network. This program uses citizen scientists to track changes in local plants, insects, and animals that could result from climate change. Why not collect some data while you are out birding? For more information and to join Nature's Notebook, visit this [link](#).

St. Lucie Audubon Officers & Board Members

President – Ellen Lynch

Vice President – Ed Bowes

Treasurer – JoAnn Stillman

Recording Secretary – Kathy Mayshar

Corresponding Secretary - Jan Nuhn

Program Chair – Kevin Hinkle

Birding Adventure Co-Chairs – Adella Blacka, Doris Brookens

Conservation Chair – Diane Goldberg

Membership Chair - Carol Pembroke

Events Chair – Harriet Scott

Public Relations – Ruth Neese

Directors at Large – Adella Blacka, Roger Laliberte, John Nelson

Science Advisor – Matthew Anderson

Raffle Coordinator – Wayne Pembroke

Board members may be contacted by email at stlucieaudubon@gmail.com

The Laughing Gull

Feathered Friends

BY RUTH NEESE

The Spotted Sandpiper is absent from St. Lucie County in June and July, returning in August after breeding further north. They remain with us until May. Spotted Sandpipers are the most widely distributed sandpiper in North America, and can be found in saltwater and freshwater environments near water.

In breeding plumage, they have a boldly spotted chest. After breeding, they gradually lose the spots, developing a white chest and belly with brown upper parts. That means they can look rather drab when visiting St. Lucie County. Fortunately, they have some distinctive behaviors to help with identification.

One behavior is their walk—they teeter and bob their tails constantly while walking. Another distinctive behavior is foraging activity. Spotted Sandpipers are usually solitary while foraging and walk quickly while crouching low to the ground, suddenly darting forward to grab prey. Finally, they have a distinctive flight pattern with quick, stuttering wingbeats interspersed with glides.

Spotted Sandpipers are easier to find along our beaches, but they can be found in inland wetlands and ponds. Look for them at Bear Point Sanctuary, Ocean Bay Riverside Park, Vitolo Family Preserve Park, Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park, Savannas Preserve State Park, and McCarty Ranch Preserve. Be sure to check shallow wetlands and canal banks, too!



Breeding plumage

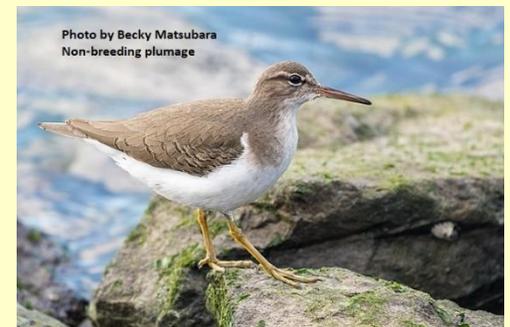


Photo by Becky Matsubara
Non-breeding plumage

Coming Attractions

FIELD TRIP

Field trips are on hold at this time.

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 5th via Zoom

We're on the Web!

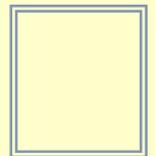
Visit us at:

<http://stluciesudubon.org>

St. Lucie Audubon Society

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