

OCTOBER 2022

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# St. Lucie Audubon Society

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



## The Laughing Gull

### President's Message

By Ellen Lynch

Welcome back to our next season for St. Lucie Audubon. Our Board has met in September to get things rolling and update our next season's birding adventures and interesting speakers.

Our first General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. Your invitation to join the zoom meeting will be sent to you prior to the meeting via email. Watch for the invitation and plan on joining us for our special presentation lead by Matthew Anderson. Matthew has been working with some college students through the Audubon Conservation Leadership Initiative Program (CLI). These avid conservation students will talk about their experiences with the unique aquatic eco-systems here on the Indian River Lagoon. Audubon encourages students to participate and it helps bring our chapters younger members and gives us all hope for an improved future.

We are also beginning to schedule our Birding Adventures with the first one now posted on our website to visit Egret Marsh Stormwater Park on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:00 am. This park is not open to the public, but we have permission to visit. Space is limited to 20 participants, so register on line as soon as possible. Other adventures will be posted soon, so keep an eye on our website for additional Birding Adventures.

(continued on page 3)

### Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
Field Trip and Speaker	2
President's Message (cont.)	3
Chapter Dues Schedule	3
Citizen Science	4
Officers & Board Members	4
Feathered Friends	5



Thursday, Oct. 6:

Presenters: Robin Pitilon & Cierra Nelson

“Of Spoonbills and Horseshoe Crabs: An Indian River Lagoon Spring Break” – The presenters reflect on volunteering with the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserves team as part of an alternative spring break program with CLI. **Zoom Presentation Only!**

Field trip: Teague & Paleo Hammock Preserves  
Saturday, October 8, 7:30 – 10:30 AM  
Trip Leader: Doris Brookens

This will be our first field trip to this popular hotspot since St. Lucie County attempted to restore the historic wetland hydrology to the property.

**IMPORTANT:** These preserves can be very wet! Please wear rubber boots or another high-top waterproof footwear. There are no restroom facilities available.

Questions? Contact Doris at (717) 576-7876 or email [dorisbrookens@gmail.com](mailto:dorisbrookens@gmail.com)

Please register on our Web page:  
<https://www.stlucieaudubon.org/field-trips>

***“A forest bird never wants a cage.” ~ Henrik Ibsen***



# The Laughing Gull

## President's Message (continued)

BY ELLEN LYNCH

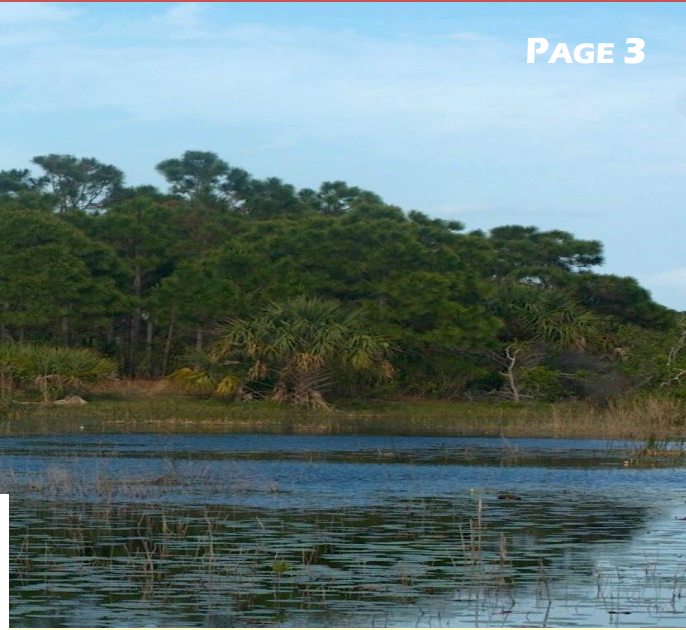
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The weekend of October 15-16 at Heathcote Botanical Gardens there will be a Fall Garden Festival which will include some special speakers. Our own Vice President, Ed Bowes, will be a featured speaker about our local birds and how to use the Merlin application. This is a perfect talk for beginning birders and the times he will be presenting will be advertised soon in the paper and on line. Ed does an amazing job educating our community and representing our chapter.

St. Lucie Audubon will also participate in the Annual Indian River Lagoon Science Festival on 10/22 from 10-3 at the Veteran's Park on the Indian River in downtown Ft. Pierce. Many booths and activities will be there to make this a wonderful family affair. We can use a few volunteers from our chapter to help man our booth for a few hours, so please let Ellen Lynch know if you can help us out that day. Just send an email to: [stlucieaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:stlucieaudubon@gmail.com)

Some interest has already been showed for our next fund raiser at Adams Ranch. We have already booked three dates, January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, and March 18<sup>th</sup>. The wonderful caterer we use has also committed to our events. The menu and final costs are being worked out by our Adams Ranch Chair, Harriet Scott. Once the

(Continued on page 4)



## 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

# President's Message (continued)

BY ELLEN LYNCH

(Continued from page 3)

final arrangements are made, the events will be posted on our website for those who want to make a reservation early. Watch for the announcement in November.

My last thought for now is to let you know that this season we will be doing our general meetings in a variety of ways. Our first meeting is on Zoom, the next few will be in person at the Oxbow Eco-Center as before. Please be aware that we will be changing venues according to the speakers we book and the topics we cover. Our in-person meetings will also be streamed on our Facebook page live for those of you out of town or unable to attend in person. It might be a challenge to keep up with where our meetings are each month, but I do believe it gives more people access to our wonderful speakers and lets others socialize with the option of in person meetings as well.

See you all soon on October 6<sup>th</sup> (on Zoom)!!

Ellen Lynch, President

### From Ed Bowes:

Project Feederwatch starts November 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through April 29<sup>th</sup>! You can count the birds that visit your backyard feeders all winter and report these counts to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. There is a fee of \$18 to participate for the 2022-2023 season. For more information and to join, visit this [link](#).

### St. Lucie Audubon Officers & Board Members

President – Ellen Lynch

Vice President – Ed Bowes

Treasurer – JoAnn Stillman

Recording Secretary – TBA

Corresponding Secretary - Jan Nuhn

Program Chair – Adella Blacka

Birding Adventure Co-Chair – Doris Brookens

Conservation Chair – Diane Goldberg

Membership Chair - Carol Pembroke

Events Chair – Harriet Scott

Public Relations – Ruth Neese

Directors at Large – Adella Blacka, Kathy Mayshar, John Nelson

Science Advisor – Matthew Anderson

Raffle Coordinator – Wayne Pembroke

Board members may be contacted by email at [stlucieaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:stlucieaudubon@gmail.com)

## The Laughing Gull

# Feathered Friends

BY RUTH NEESE

Fall migration is in full swing! Barn Swallows led the charge and now the warblers and raptors are passing through. One of our smaller winter visitors is the Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*). I have had one playing “catch me if you can” in my yard for about three weeks. Note the namesake bright yellow throat patch and distinctive black face connecting to stripes on the sides. The black is offset by a white eye stripe and white ear patch.

The Yellow-throated Warbler is considered a “southeastern” warbler because its breeding range encompasses the southeastern U.S., excluding south Florida. These beautiful birds do winter here in South Florida and can be seen foraging on trees for insects. They creep along branches and trunks, probing in cracks and crevices, often head down! These warblers will also come to bird feeders in the winter for high fat foods—suet, sunflower hearts, and mealworms. I have experienced one determined warbler challenging his reflection in my back slider (see the blurry picture).

The migratory passage of Yellow-throated Warblers is peeking now in St. Lucie County. The numbers will taper off by the end of October. Some of these lively little birds will over-winter here, so keep your eyes open and binoculars ready.

On a positive note, these warblers are expanding their breeding range northward, into the Midwest and Missouri. The birds had retreated from this range in the early twentieth century for unknown reasons. It is good to know that they are coming back!



## Coming Attractions

### **FIELD TRIP**

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Egret Marsh Stormwater Park

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, November 3, 2022

“Amazing World of the Florida Scrub Jay”

## We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://stluciesudubon.org>

*St. Lucie Audubon Society*

*P.O. Box 12474*

*Ft. Pierce, FL 34979*

