

MAY 2023

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 8

# St. Lucie Audubon Society

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



## The Laughing Gull

### President's Message

By Ellen Lynch

The General Meeting on May 4th is the last of our regular season meetings until October. We have recently planted a tree at Oxbow that we are going to dedicate to one of our board members, Tom Stillman, who passed away last summer. We are encouraging you to come to our general meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> about 15 minutes early. We will gather around the newly planted tree and think of Tom with his widow, JoAnn, our current Treasurer, and her brother. Please arrive by 6:40 pm so we can make this happen for her and Tom's memory.

I want to thank all our working board members and chairs for their commitment and team effort this last season. We have a wonderful team and it will continue into our new year in the fall with the addition of two new board members, Wayne Landry and Holly DeMarco. The actual vote will be held at this general meeting, so your vote counts!

Our Program Chair, Adella Blacka, has done an excellent job with the variety and professional speakers over the last 8 months. Our Birding Adventures Co-Chairs, Kathy Mayshar and Doris Brookens, also provided us with very interesting and diverse field trips to see the special birds we have in our area. Our Vice Chair, Ed Bowes, continues to provide his technology experience to our Facebook Live meetings, and John Nelson, Director-at-Large, is developing a YouTube channel

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Thursday, May 4:

Presenter: **Lorraine Sulik-Morecraft**

“Birding and a Photographic Journal” by Lorraine Sulik-Morecraft, photographer and author. Lorraine will be speaking about the joy of birding and the basics of creating a photo journal.

Regularly scheduled field trips will resume in October.

Check our website periodically to see if anything special pops up during the summer.

<https://www.stlucieaudubon.org/field-trips>

In the meantime, keep watch for our aerobatic Swallow-tailed Kites, fledging Osprey, and numerous species of immature songbirds. Good birding!

***“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explode, and every sunset is different.” ~ John Steinbeck***



# The Laughing Gull

## President's Message (continued)

BY ELLEN LYNCH

(Continued from page 1)

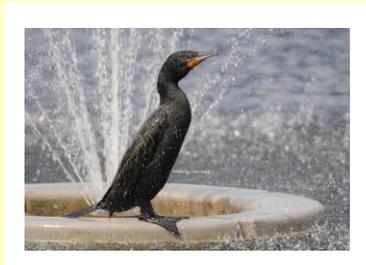
For our chapter. Diane Goldberg, our Conservation Chair, has worked so hard to get those Clean Water Act petitions signed that she may need a long vacation soon! Jan Nuhn, our Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair, has kept our members informed and makes sure we get those dues! Our Treasurer, JoAnn Stillman, keeps our fiscal books in order so perfectly and all our bills are paid when due. She has been a gift to our chapter!

I can't forget to thank our Adams Ranch Event volunteers, Liz Dunleavy, Harriet Scott, Henry Hilderbrand, Colleen Clawges, and Richard Lynch. They are planning next winter already!

I also want to thank Ruth Neese who puts together our monthly newsletter and deserves lots of recognition. We don't see much of her as she works too much, but her influence and informative articles in our newsletter are much appreciated.

Without Mary Dodge we would not have a beautiful and working website to give people a peek at our chapter and our mission. She keeps it up to date and is always ready to help with putting in our meetings and adventures. She is very good at being our webmaster!

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## 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

May brings the Global Big Day birding event. This year, the Global Big Day is happening on May 13, [World Migratory Bird Day](#). You have 24 hours to count birds, from 12 midnight to 11:59 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Count birds anywhere in St. Lucie County, your backyard, a preserve, or even a supermarket parking lot, then report your observations on [eBird](#). There is even a mobile [eBird app](#) now! You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these [animated abundance maps](#) brought to you by eBird Science.

Last year, [Global Big Day](#) brought more birders together virtually than ever before. More than 54,000 people from 253 world regions submitted a staggering 140,841 checklists with eBird, setting a new world record for a single day of birding. Returning again, [eBird Trip Reports](#)! You can share the trip report with friends and family as you bird throughout the day on May 13. Let's set a record for participation and species counted in St. Lucie County this year!

### President's Message (continued from p. 3)

A big thanks goes to Matthew Anderson, our Science Advisor, since he has volunteered to work as a judge for the STEM school competitions and finding the Grace Stock Awards winners for our chapter each year. He is also the coordinator for the new CLI (Conservation Leadership Initiative) student we have met this year, Emily Bliss Duren. Emily has helped

us with some of the community events and attended our general meetings. We were so lucky to have her with us this last season. We want to thank her and support her studies to become someone who makes a difference for our birds.

To all of you who support St. Lucie Audubon I say, "Thank You"

Ellen Lynch

### 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)

# Feathered Friends

BY RUTH NEESE

One local year-round feathered songster is tiny—only 4 – 5 inches in length. It is also secretive, making it hard to see. If you follow its loud “teakettle-teakettle!” song, you might be rewarded with a glimpse of the shy Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). These little birds prefer shrubby, overgrown habitat, which is why they can be so hard to visualize. Of course, during breeding season the males can be spotted singing in more open areas. I have seen them using the tops of outdoor grills as a singing stage.

Carolina Wrens have a round body with bright cinnamon plumage above and buffy-orange feathers on the underparts. They show a white throat and a long creamy-white eye stripe. The bill is dark and curves down slightly. The long tail is held cocked up, which is a general characteristic of wrens. Only the males sing, and singing may be heard at any time of year. To hear a Carolina Wren, click this [link](#) and then click on “Listen.”

Carolina Wrens build nests in cavities—**any** cavity. Nests have been found in discarded flower pots, disused grills, rain boots, cups left outdoors a bit too long, and old coat pockets! Both members of a pair participate in the cup-shaped nest construction and both take turns incubating the eggs. Once nestlings fledge, the family group often feeds together.

These wrens are insectivorous, and spiders are a favorite food. They creep around in vegetation, brush piles, and along tree trunks looking for insects and an occasional small lizard. This means Carolina Wrens favor our scrubby preserves, like Bluefield Ranch Preserve, Pinelands Preserve, Paleo Hammock Preserve, Sheraton Scrub Preserve, and Indrio Savannahs Preserve. However, listen for them anywhere you find heavy vegetation and lots of insects.



## Coming Attractions

### **FIELD TRIP**

TBA

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, May 4, 2023

“Birding and a Photographic Journal”

Speaker: Lorraine Sulik-Morecraft

## We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://stluciesudubon.org>

*St. Lucie Audubon Society*

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