



Sun City Center Audubon Club

November 2022

Prez Ponderings November 2022

Welcome Back to the SCC Audubon Club! The room is reserved, we've booked the speaker, the snacks are ordered, and the coffee will be brewing! **All we need to make it a perfect day is YOU!**

Our first Audubon Club meeting of the 2022-23 program year is:

DATE: Saturday, November 5, 2022

PLACE: Florida Room

TIME: 9:15 AM Social -- 10:00 AM Meeting
& Speaker Fairl Thomas

Check-in and membership volunteers will keep the entry line moving and will confirm the status of your membership. **REMINDER: by joining now, your Audubon Club membership is fully paid until December 31, 2023.** Thanks for joining and supporting our Club.

The new **2022-23 Audubon Club brochures** to be distributed are a handy reminder of meetings, speaker topics, field trips., and contact information. Also notice the variety of committees involved in the life of our Club.

Our Audubon Club's **NEW banners and exhibit table will be on display** at this meeting. We used them at the recent Florida Birding and Nature Festival, and they will also be used at SCC's "Hi Neighbor!" event on November 3rd. The new banners are self-supporting, retract into a compact case, and are easy to carry and store.

A JOB WELL DONE!

Fourteen (14) Club members volunteered to work at our Club exhibit table at the recent (2) day Florida Birding & Nature Festival. In addition, Club member John Lampkin led a field trip at the Schultz Preserve. Of all the groups at the Festival, **our Audubon Club had one of the largest contingents of volunteers.**

WE NEED & WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!

At each meeting, members help **with set-up, greeting, check-in, member registration, badge sales, and refreshments.** Other opportunities include **publicity, leading field trips, and conservation tasks.** To be successful, our Audubon Club relies on many member volunteers like yourself who willingly give of their time and talent. **Interested? Please contact me for information.**

Looking forward to seeing *you* at the meeting.

Dennis Morris, President

SCC Audubon Club

5w3d15h80y@gmail.com

570-814-2803



*Raptors and Rodenticides
Nov. 5th Meeting*



Great Horned Owl

Rat poison and other rodenticides can have unintended consequences. Not only do raptors like owls and hawks become sick from preying on rodents that have eaten poisoned bait but reducing raptor numbers allows rodent populations to rebound.

Learn about the dangers of using anticoagulant rodenticides by attending the November 5 meeting. Our guest speaker, Fairl Thomas, is a wildlife rescuer and avian researcher. She will discuss the importance of protecting raptors – rodents' natural predators – from poison exposure so they can help keep rat and mouse numbers in check. Fairl will provide practical tips for safely rodent proofing your home.

After graduating from Eckerd College in 2021 with a double major in Environmental Studies and Animal Studies, and a minor in Biology, Fairl started her career at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park as an animal care specialist. She has been involved in wildlife rescue for many years and began officially working with Birds In Helping Hands in 2017.

The meeting will be held in the Florida Room beginning at 9:15 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. Please bring your own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by the presentation.



BYOM

In an endeavor to support our conservation beliefs, please bring your own mug to our Saturday morning meetings. We appreciate your cooperation.



Visit our website at:

www.sccaudubonclub.com



Celebrate November 11

ALERT: TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

The **Saturday, December 3rd Audubon Club meeting** will be a “fundraiser meeting” that is **OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC** for a donation of \$3. (Members & SCC residents free.) **NO SCCCA GUEST PASSES NEEDED.** It will be held at Community Hall, 1910 South Pebble Beach Blvd. to provide more space for the animal encounters. Socializing and refreshments will begin at 9:15 AM.

Featured will be “Wonders of Nature,” a **fast-paced, live show** featuring fascinating animal behaviors narrated by Matt Edmonds, a former animal keeper at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. You'll watch raptors flying overhead and much more.

ALL ARE INVITED!

COME AND ENJOY OUR MOST POPULAR MEETING OF THE YEAR!

Field Trip Schedule 2022-2023

11/16/22	Alderman's Ford Park Lithia, FL
12/20/22	Captain Tom's Christmas Palmetto, FL
01/12/23	Felts Audubon Preserve Palmetto, FL
02/17/23	TECO Restoration Area Sarasota County, FL
03/15/23	Sweet Bay Nursery Parrish, FL
04/19/23	Fort Desoto County Park Pinellas County, FL

To sign up for our field trips, please visit our website:

www.sccaudubonclub.com

Florida Birding & Nature Festival



Crested Caracara

.....and the drama continues Bluebirds

This year, 2022, marks our sixth season of monitoring the twenty-five bluebird boxes on the SCC Audubon Bluebird Trail and every year brings new insights into the lives of these iconic birds. Distilling the data shows the following results. Of the 25 boxes, 4 were not used at all. The remaining 21 boxes produced 40 nests and 121 bluebirds were fledged from those 40 nests.

But this doesn't tell the whole story. This year several nest boxes were plagued by sparrows harassing and even killing fledglings. This is an ongoing problem and so far we haven't found a reliable method to keep sparrows away from our bluebird boxes. One thing we noticed in the past was that placing bird seed feeders (especially with millet) near bluebird boxes actually attracts house sparrows, so we always advise, feeders and bluebirds don't mix. During the breeding season especially, bluebirds are insectivores, so they will mostly ignore seed feeders.

This year there was an inordinate amount of unhatched, presumed not viable, eggs. One bird laid an extraordinary 19 eggs, attempted to incubate the second clutch of 8 eggs and ultimately NO eggs hatched.

So we continue to watch our bluebird friends and look forward to another successful season next year.



This job is a "walk in the park!"

NO experience needed – we will train you!

A substitute field trip leader is needed for:

Alderman's Ford Park in Lithia

Wednesday, November 16th

Travel time: 35 minutes

No Interstate roads

Walkway is paved

Walk is less than a mile

A lunch reservation is made

This easy field trip is *completely planned*

For more info, please call:

Dennis Morris: 570-814-2803 OR

Ray Webb: 813-469-3994

--Thank You!



[Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife](http://owlsnestsanctuaryforwildlife.com)

owlsnestsanctuaryforwildlife.com

If you find or see sick or injured wildlife call 813-598-5926. DO NOT use the contact or email form. If there is no answer leave a detailed message including:

Name

Phone number

What type of animal it is

The area where it is located

Since time is of the essence, please do not use the email or use the contact form for injured wildlife. Please keep in mind we do not rescue domestic animals or relocate wildlife that is healthy.

When you find orphaned or injured wildlife, it is tempting to pick it up. **Don't!** Many times orphaned wildlife is perfectly capable of finding their own way home.

In the spring, many animals are learning to leave the nest and do not need help. If the animal is obviously injured, bleeding, or there is a dead parent nearby, be sure to call your nearest wildlife rehab. 813-598-5926

***Officers & Committee Chairs
2022-2023***

<i>President</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Vice-President & Programs</i>	<i>Patsie Ginley</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betty Giles</i>
<i>Co-Treasurers</i>	<i>Pam & George Viner</i>
<i>Immediate Past</i>	<i>Mary Duncan</i>
<i>Greeter</i>	<i>Linda Floyd</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Pat Dean</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Name Tags</i>	<i>Jo Ann Wilkinson</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Clara Clancy</i>
<i>Master Birder & Field Trips</i>	<i>Ray Webb</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>TBD</i>



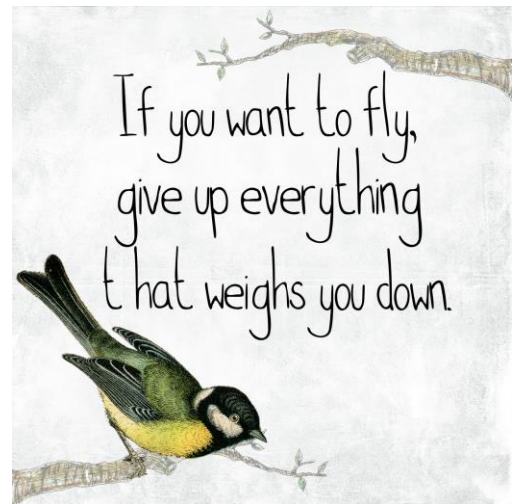
SCC Audubon Board Meetings

Board meetings are held in the heritage room at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month.

All Members are invited.

Program Schedule – 2022-2023

11/05/22	Raptors, Nature's Rodent Expert Fairl Thomas
12/03/22	Wonders of Nature Matt Edmonds
01/07/23	Defend Yourself, insect Micro-photography John Lampkin
02/04/23	Woodpeckers, Nature's Wood-worker Reinier Munguia
03/04/23	Mermaid, Manatees, and other Marine Life Dr. Buddy Powell
04/01/23	Garden to Attract Bird/ Butterflies Terry Brockway
04/22/23	EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NATURE TRAILS



Pinterest

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October

James Carpenter	10/1
Linda Nichols	10/01
Thomas Bredeson	10/6
Arthur Brogan	10/06
Norma Eades	10/6
Kathleen Norris	10/6
Carol Anderson	10/7
Sylvia Pomrenke	10/8
John A Renfrow	10/10
Jody Masterson	10/11
Christine Rogers	10/11
Cyrille Cobe	10/13
Nancy Estrada	10/17
Marilyn Holm	10/18
Micky Bohan	10/20
Jane Mitchell	10/26
Gary Ludwig	10/30
Linda McGee	10/31
Gail Regester	10/31

November

Lauralei Collier	11/06
Keith Pomrenke	11/6
Phyllis Liles	11/11
Ann Fenimore	11/16
Austin Folmer	11/18
Nancy Wilbourn	11/21
Linda Torchia	11/24
Sabine Prather	11/27
Nancy Spencer	11/27



Living in Florida with Alligators

Florida has 1.3 million alligators. You'll find them anywhere there's standing water.

How to live safely with them. You're urged to swim only in designated areas and during daylight hours, to keep your pet on a leash and away from the water, and to **never, ever feed the alligators**. Bites occur when people don't pay attention to their surroundings near water.

If you encounter an alligator whose behavior poses a threat to people, pets or property, call the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWCGATOR (866-392-4286). **Nuisance alligators are killed, not relocated.**

