



# Sun City Center Audubon Club

October 2023

## *Prez Ponderings October 2023*

**Welcome Back to the SCC Audubon Club!** The Florida Room is reserved, the speaker is booked, snacks are ordered, and the coffee will be brewing! **We're looking forward to seeing YOU!**

Our first Audubon Club meeting of the 2023-24 program year is:

**DATE: Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**PLACE: Florida Room**

**TIME: 9:15 AM Social -- 10:00 AM Meeting**

**& Speaker Ray Webb**

Check-in and membership volunteers will keep the entry line moving and will confirm the status of your membership. **REMINDER: by joining or renewing now, your Audubon Club membership is fully paid until December 31, 2024.** Thanks for joining and supporting our Club.

## **WE NEED & WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS!**

Check the revised Volunteer Opportunities on the bottom of the Membership Registration form. To be successful, our Audubon Club relies on many member volunteers like yourself who willingly give of their time and talent.



**A Nominating Committee has been appointed** to seek and recommend Audubon Club Officer candidates for 2024. Our Secretary and Co-Treasurers are willing to serve another term. **The President and Vice-President positions need to be filled for 2024.** If you wish to be a candidate for any Audubon Club Office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee for information:

Clara Clancy [papabear261@juno.com](mailto:papabear261@juno.com)

Pat Dean [fredsfishn@aol.com](mailto:fredsfishn@aol.com)

Linda Floyd [LFloyd21@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:LFloyd21@tampabay.rr.com)

Melanie Higgins [melaniephiggins@gmail.com](mailto:melaniephiggins@gmail.com)

Mariclaire Jones [mariclaire.c.jones@gmail.com](mailto:mariclaire.c.jones@gmail.com)

The new **2023-24 Audubon Club brochures** to be distributed are a handy reminder of meetings, speaker topics, field trips., and contact information.

## **WOW! DID YOU KNOW?**

**The SCC Audubon Club Fund has an online "Giving Page"** Simply go to the website:

**CFTampaBay.org**

select Get Started, then

page down to the

SCC Audubon Club Fund and

Donate Now! using a credit

card or account debit.

**LEARN MORE** about the **SCC Audubon Club Fund.** Pick up an informational sheet at **OUR** meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on **Saturday, 10/7/23**

*Dennis Morris, President*

[5w3d15h80y@gmail.com](mailto:5w3d15h80y@gmail.com)

570-814-2803

**Sun City Center Audubon Club to  
hold first meeting  
of the 2023-2024 Season**

The Sun City Center Audubon Club will host its first meeting of the 2023-24 season Saturday, October 7, from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., in the Florida Room in the Atrium Building on North Pebble Beach Boulevard.

Guest speaker will be Club Master Birder Ray Webb, who will give a photo slide presentation and discussion called “Basic Birding Sun City Center.” He will offer a cursory introduction about Birding basics, such as what to look for when you spot a bird and how to quickly identify it, before it takes off and disappears into the foliage.

Webb will also show photographs of some of the more iconic bird species, that live in our area of Hillsborough County, Florida. Many of these seasonal visitors will be migrating south through the Tampa Bay area, within the next couple of months.

Some of the best illustrated birding books and cell phone apps to use as a reference at home or in the field will be discussed.

Webb has been a National Audubon Society member since 1974. He moved to Florida in 1990. He has been leading field trips for over 30 years. He is an active board member and Field Trip Chairman for the Sun City Audubon Club. He was born in Queens, N.Y., and grew up in New Jersey.

Refreshments will be offered, and socializing encouraged prior to the start of the meeting between 9:15 a.m. And 10 a.m. Club meetings and presentations are open only to residents of Sun City Center and Kings Point.

For more information, contact Dennis at 1-570-814-2803.

*John Perian*

**PROGRAMS 2023-2024**

- 10/07/23      Birding Sun City Center**  
Ray Webb
- 11/04/23      Backyard Habitat for Birds**  
James Stevenson  
Pinellas County
- 12/02/23      Birds of Prey**  
Mike Stott  
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve  
(\*Community Hall)
- 01/06/24      Suwanee Cooters**  
George Heinrich  
Field Biologist  
(\*Community Hall)
- 02/03/24      Bugs in your Bloomers**  
John Lampkin
- 3/2/24          The Importance of Urban  
Forests**  
Edward Meucke  
COT Forester
- 4/06/24      Florida Wildlife Corridor**  
Marley Fuller  
Wildlife Corridor
- 4/19/24      EARTH DAY  
CELEBRATION**  
AT THE NATURE TRAILS  
(Friday before Earth Day)



[www.sccaudubonclub.com](http://www.sccaudubonclub.com)

## *News from our Master Birder*

*Ray Webb*

We now are at the beginning of a new year for Audubon, with new adventures planned. First, let me discuss our final summer trip, to Boyd Hill Nature Preserve on September 21.

Ten of us visited the Preserve, including one guest - Dave Goodwin, a St. Pete resident and excellent birder, who has presented for our group in the past. He told the group about the Preserve's history. Unfortunately, migrating birds were scarce on this day. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the Preserve's beauty and the birds we did see.

Our new year will begin on October 18. When we will visit Paynes Creek Historic State Park, a small park which focuses on Florida's past in general and the Seminole Indian Wars in particular. We will see a brief video and a collection of artifacts and take a walk as well.

November 13 will find us at Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland, which hurricane Ian kept us from visiting last year. This park features a Visitor Center and a wide variety of birds to see!

We will visit Bok Tower Gardens on December 8, in time to see their annual Christmas displays. And birds, of course!

## *Field Trips*

10/18/23	Paynes Creek Historic State Park Bowling Green, FL
11/13/23	Circle B Bar Reserve Lakeland, FL Park
12/08/23	Bok Towers Gardens Lake Wales, FL
1/16/24	Wild Florida Sanctuary Riverview, FL
2/23/24	The Celery Fields Sarasota, FL
3/28/24	Venice Rookery Venice FL
4/17/24	Fort Desoto County Park Pinellas County, FL

For more information on Programs & Field Trips please visit our website at [www.sccaudubonclub.com](http://www.sccaudubonclub.com)

**The Florida Birding & Nature Festival** will be held on October 12 - 15, 2023, at the Suncoast Youth Conservation Center, 6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL. The "Expo" portion of the Birding and Nature Festival features table exhibits, businesses selling items, and a food vendor. **The Expo is free and open for the public to attend 10AM-5PM on Friday, October 14th and Saturday, October 15th.** It will be held outdoors and under cover.

Make sure to stop by and say Hello! at our SCC Audubon Club exhibit table.

**On Friday and Saturday 9AM-5PM, the Festival also offers a total of (18) hour-long "seminars",** which will be presented in an indoor seminar room.

**Purchase of a Festival ticket entitles you to attend all of the seminars.** Purchase of a Festival ticket also entitles you to sign up for field trips, at an additional fee.

For detailed Festival seminar and event information, go to [www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org](http://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org). At the top click on "Schedule", then page down and click on the big red button, "SEE THE FULL 2023 SCHEDULE DETAILS".



## *Trail Blazing*

*John Lampkin*

Do you want to be a naturalist? It's easy and fun! iNaturalist is an app that allows you to take a picture of any plant or animal with your phone and upload it. Almost instantaneously, your subject will be identified to species or at least a general category. For more information and tutorials about downloading and using the app, visit [iNaturalist.org/pages/getting+started](http://iNaturalist.org/pages/getting+started)



**“Wow, I wonder what our children will look like!”  
A darkling beetle takes a ride on a scarab.**

iNaturalist logs all observations into a huge international database and is a great tool for organizing and sorting your data. Our friend of SCC Audubon, Clint Gibson, created an iNaturalist “project” for us called “Sun City Center Nature Trails” if you enter that into the search field of the iNat home page, you will see all the observations and ID’s that have been uploaded just from the Trails. You will be impressed with the number of moths and other nocturnal fliers that were recently added. Five of us did a night survey at the Trails in mid-September and were delighted at the sheer numbers and diversity of the insects that showed up. But that is a topic for another column! Meanwhile, enjoy these few samples of images from that night.



**There are at least 19 cicada species in Florida.  
One of the most attractive is the  
Hieroglyphic Cicada.**

**The Io moth, pronounced “EYE-oh,” is a stunner  
because of the false eyespots that can fool  
predators into thinking that it’s an owl or  
somesuch.**



So, I do urge you to visit the iNaturalist website, download the app on your phone and then visit the Nature Trails and click away!

John Lampkin  
[JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com](mailto:JohnLampkin@JohnLampkin.com)

***Officers & Committee Chairs  
2023***

<b><i>President</i></b>	<b><i>Dennis Morris</i></b>
<b><i>Vice-President &amp; Programs</i></b>	<b><i>Patsie Ginley</i></b>
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	<b><i>Betty Giles</i></b>
<b><i>Co-Treasurers</i></b>	<b><i>Pam &amp; George Viner</i></b>
<b><i>Immediate Past Pres.</i></b>	<b><i>Mary Duncan</i></b>
<b><i>Greeter</i></b>	<b><i>Linda Floyd</i></b>
<b><i>Refreshments</i></b>	<b><i>Pat Dean</i></b>
<b><i>Membership</i></b>	<b><i>Merial Graff</i></b>
<b><i>Name Tags</i></b>	<b><i>Jo Ann Wilkinson</i></b>
<b><i>Co-Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Laura Butler</i></b>
<b><i>Conservation</i></b>	<b><i>Melanie Higgins</i></b>
<b><i>Historian</i></b>	<b><i>Clara Clancy</i></b>
<b><i>Newsletter</i></b>	<b><i>Denise Rosen</i></b>
<b><i>Publicity</i></b>	<b><i>John Perian</i></b>
<b><i>Master Birder &amp; Field Trips</i></b>	<b><i>Ray Webb</i></b>



*Kate and Dr. Bob Lochte* have gifted our Club with three high quality framed Audubon prints. These pieces were from the estate of their Aunt Jane Davis Doggett, 11/04/1929 – 4/10/23, in her memory. These three framed prints will be raffled off individually, with the first being “Painted Finches.” The overall size of the framed print is 30”x43”. Sales will be limited to 50 tickets total at \$10.00/per ticket. The print will be available for viewing at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Melanie Higgins*

***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.***



***Happy Columbus Day***



### BYOM

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

For those of you who use the recycle water bottles, the CA has installed water fountains in the atrium to conveniently refill your water bottles.

So, you say, you forgot your coffee mug, no worries, you can purchase one of our brand-new SCC Audubon Travel Mugs at our next meeting. Available for \$5 each.



### Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month  
Florida Room in Atrium

9:15am Coffee Social

10:00am Business Meeting followed by  
Scheduled Program and  
Adjournment

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### October 2023

*Micky Bohan*

*Thomas Bredesen*

*James Carpenter*

*Jean Curry*

*Norma Eades*

*Marilyn Holm*

*Gary Ludwig*

*Susan Madlock*

*Jody Masterson*

*Richard McDaniels*

*Blanche McDaniels*

*Linda McGee*

*Jane Mitchell*

*Beverly Moody*

*Kathleen Norris*

*Sylvia Pomrenke*

*Walt Prouty*

*Gail Regester*

*Alan Renfrow*

*David Weber*

# BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE

St Petersburg September 21, 2023

*Photos by J.N. Perian, Jr*



Master Birder **Ray Webb**, and club members **Nancy Renfrow**, along with her husband **Alan** and **Pinellas County Park System birder Dave Goodwin** look for birds along the trail.

SCC Audubon Club members **Nancy Renfrow**, **Linda McGee**, **Judy Matelski** and her husband **Ron Mitelski** are taking a break along one of the six trails and boardwalks there. The overhanging branches of Bald Cypress, Live Oaks, Red Maples, American Hollies, Spanish Moss and other fauna kept the ambient temperature several degrees cooler than the 82-degree hot and humid open terrain. A slight cooling breeze off of nearby Lake Maggiore also helped make it a perfect day for birding.



**Alan Redfrow** prepares to hydrate himself at one of the nine water coolers situated at strategic points along the six miles of trails. It was a pretty warm day. But the available drinking water and benches under the covered pavilions helped take the edge off of the weather.



Long time birder and **Pinellas County Park System worker Dave Goodwin** points to a **Red Shouldered Hawk** at the Boyd Hill Nature. He spoke with a group of birders with the SCC Audubon Club.



Professional Photographer and SCC Club Member, **John Lampkin** prepares to hone in for a close up of a very small flying insect during last month's field trip to the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve.

Because of an earlier injury, this North American Kestrel permanently resides at the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. It can no longer fend for itself in the wild. This **"Sparrow Hawk"** is well care for, along with a few other of its raptor neighbors.

