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This newsletter is published 5 times each year: Jan., Mar., May, Sept., and Nov. -SAVE THIS ISSUE UNTIL March, 2016
Our Motto is **"From Birding to the Total Environment"** Website Address: <http://www.baycountyaudubon.org>
Bay County Audubon Society's 53rd year of continuous successful operation

it out!!! baycountyaudubon.org or follow us on Facebook.

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Programs	Mary Jo Capra	233-1313
Publicity	Al Clare	872-8260
Web/Facebook Master	Susan Lamb	265-0646

WELCOME NEW BCAS MEMBERS
December 2015 – January 2016

Louise Preston, John E. Shaffer, Tom Floore, Sandra Jackson, Carolyn Warkmeister, Joan Rogers, Patricia Griffin, Mark A. Vanderlofske, Emily Hale, and Coffman Johanson, Steve & Ann Ruple, Clifford C. Higby, Kay Daniel, Joyce H. Dannecker, David W. Jones, Donna Moore, Brenda Ward, Terri Stoneburner, Charlotte Long, Sandra Pierce, Eugenia Moseley, Angela Monzon, Dawn Chandler, and Vernon & Lou Cooper.

WELCOME BACK
Marie Garland, Joan M. Paprocki, and Bay County Library.

We look forward to seeing you at our BCAS meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Science & Discovery Center of Northwest Florida, 308 Airport Road. Membership renewals: BCAS, the local chapter affiliated with National Audubon Society, does not handle renewals—only new memberships. Please use the form sent by the National Audubon Society for renewal. Your membership expiration date can be found on the top line of your address on your newsletter. Those receiving electronic newsletters please contact Diane

Houser, membership chair, for that date.

NEW MEMBERS FORM (Not for renewals)

Yes, please enroll me as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter, Bay County Audubon Society (**C5ZE200Z**)
☞ Be sure to put this number on your check). Please send Audubon magazine, Conservation Chronicle, and my membership card to the address below.

\$20 One-year introductory membership \$15 Friend (*The Conservation Chronicle* only)

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please make your check ☞ payable to the National Audubon Society and mail this application to the local chapter:
Bay County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1182, Panama City, Florida 32402

CONSERVATION CHRONICLE



**BAY COUNTY
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

March - April 2016
Vol . 41, Number 2

CO-PRESIDENT'S CHAT
By Robin Shader

Co-President's Chat
(Continued)

Bylaws Change

Membership to Vote at March Meeting

The Bay County Audubon Society Board has approved changes to the Bylaws, which must now be approved by the membership. The revised document was made available to the membership during the February membership meeting. Per the procedure detailed in the current Bylaws, if a majority of the members in attendance during the March membership meeting approve the changes they will be adopted.

The proposed changes bring the Bylaws in line with practices the Society has been following for many years, and aims to maintain the necessary structure of the organization while providing flexibility to make changes as the needs of the Society change. This article summarizes major changes. Electronic or print copies of the complete proposed Bylaws are available upon request.

Currently the Bylaws call for the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian and Historian. The revised version calls for a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. The Society has not utilized a Parliamentarian for many years. The Historian duties are served by a Standing Committee, and with the availability of email and word processors, Corresponding Secretary duties can easily be handled by the Secretary, President or other Board member.

Another significant change to the Bylaws is the removal of the list of required Standing Committees. The need for specific committees changes over time and removing the list allows the Board to make changes without amending the Bylaws. The new Bylaws require the incoming President to propose the list of committees at the start of his/her term and this list must be approved by the Board. In order to ensure there are enough Board members to complete the work of the Society, the revised Bylaws require there are nine members of the Board; five officers and at least four standing committee chairs.

The location of the membership meetings was specified in the Bylaws but since we no longer meet at the Garden Club this needed to be changed. The revised Bylaws no longer specify a location, which gives the Board the flexibility to make changes when necessary without requiring a Bylaws amendment.

Other changes were made to clarify roles or to align the document with current Board practices, such as removing the option of organizational memberships.

Please contact me or Co-President Ron Houser if you have questions, comments or would like a copy of the revised Bylaws.

FOR SALE

Pentax PF80ED spotting scope with straight 20-60X zoom eyepiece, Bogen tripod, extra 39X Orion wide field eyepiece and scope case. This is a high quality 80mm waterproof scope and sturdy tripod. I'm looking to downsize to a 65mm scope. Great buy at **\$650** for all. Questions? Call Ron at 763-7485

CALENDER OF EVENTS

PROGRAMS

All membership meetings will be held at the Science & Discovery Center of Northwest Florida, 308 Airport Road, Panama City

A few dates to mark in your calendars for this coming spring. Some great programs and a few important meetings that you may want to attend.

March 14 - "Texas Birding" by Gail Casteel. Gail is a BCAS member and avid birder. The presentation will highlight her favorite places to bird in Texas.

April 11 - "Costa Rica Adventure" by Anne Ake author of Turning Turtles in Tortuguero: Stories From the Origins of Sea Turtle Research, present an account of the eco-tour made with the members of St Andrews Bay Resource Management Association.

Other Events. Earth Day 2016. Bay County Audubon will be hosting a booth at the Earth Day festivities at McKenzie Park on April 9th. This is a change from the previously advertised date of April 23rd! For more information or if you can give us a hand, please contact Ron Houser at 763-7485.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION QUIZ

(Answer at the end)

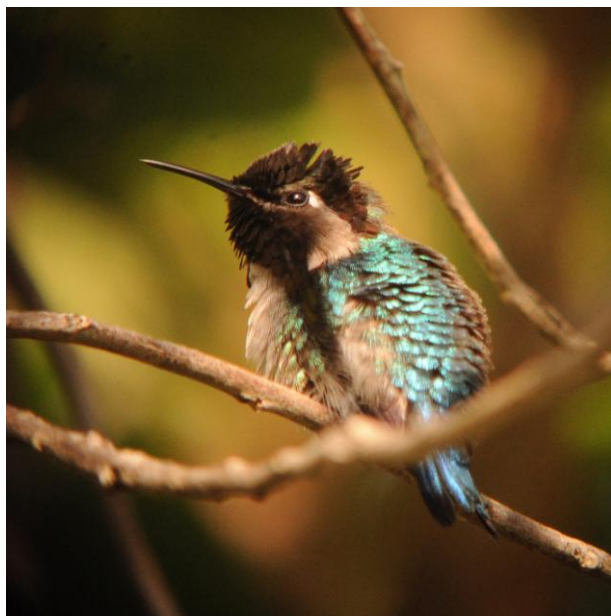


Photo by Ron Merritt

Field Trips

By Ron Houser

Tentative Schedule for Field Trips through May

March 16 - PCB Conservation Park – Meet at the Park at 7:30 AM - Ron Houser

March 19 - Florida Caverns – Meet at the Starbucks by the mall at 7:15 AM for a 7:30 departure, bring a lunch – Ron Houser

April 16 – Ft. Pickens – Meet at the Publix on Panama City Beach Parkway at the far west end at the "Y". Bring your a picnic lunch. Entry fee to Ft. Pickens is \$15 per car. National Park Pass works if you have one - Norm Capra

BINOCULAR TIP

By Ron Houser

Most of us have lost lens caps from our binoculars in the past. Newer ones stay on better, but if you have a pair of good binoculars that are missing lens covers, you can buy replacements. You will need to know the diameter of the objective (large) lens in millimeters. Measure the outside diameter. For instance, if your binoculars are 42mm, that refers to the diameter of just the glass, so you will need to add a few millimeters to include the lens barrel. For that size, the outside diameter is usually around 45-47mm. Go to eagleoptics.com and search for lens caps or covers under binocular accessories. They will probably be under "Medium". They only have a few name brands, but as long as the size is the same, they should fit your binoculars. They cost around \$10 or so, plus shipping, but they are the newer style that stays attached to the binoculars so you won't lose them again. You should also be able to get eyepiece covers there also.

Backyard Visitor!

Digi-Scope Photo by Ron Houser

A spotting scope can be a great way to capture photos of birds. We often forget that the high-quality lens on our spotting scopes can be used with our point and shoot cameras as well as with more sophisticated digital SLR equipment. The next time you are out with your scope, try a few shots through the eyepiece, being careful not to scratch either lens. Or look into a dedicated mounting bracket.



Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program



Bonnie Samuelsen, Project Coordinator for Audubon Florida's Coastal Bird Stewardship program, was our guest speaker for February. Attendees were treated to an overview of the Panhandle-wide efforts being conducted on behalf of Florida's beach-nesting birds. Partnerships with Florida Park Service, FWC, USFWS, ANERR, Tyndall AFB, to name a few, were highlighted showing importance of working together and how it can make a difference.

Bonnie's photos showed how the scientists placed unique colored bands on birds, the use of radio telemetry and game cameras to assess survivability, movement patterns, migration and predation. It was shown how sea level rise, armoring of shorelines and loss of habitat impact Florida's coastal bird populations.

She also showed photos of disturbances such as giant holes on beaches; beach chairs and umbrellas left overnight causing entanglement; fishing line entanglement; major events such as Blue Angels, White Trash Bash, major holiday weekends and what is required by volunteers, staff, partnerships and law enforcement to minimize nest and chick loss during these events.

Birds nesting along roadways and rooftop nesting adaptation were also shown. Several sites were highlighted showing disturbances, challenges and management efforts.

Beach-Nesting Bird season has started and volunteers are needed to help with these statewide efforts. Contact Bonnie at BSamuelsen@audubon.org to learn of opportunities on how you can help

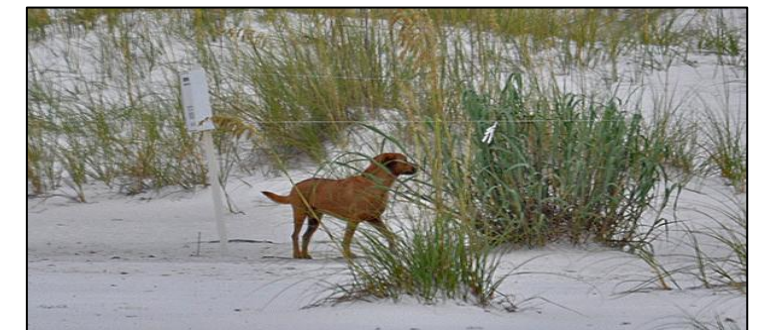
St. Andrews State Park Draft Management Plan Released

A hot topic for this coming summer will be the resolution of the St. Andrews State Park Management Plan that will set the stage for the next decade at the park. The document includes plans for the entire park, but the most contentious issues revolve around management on Shell Island where local outdoor groups have been lobbying hard to allow unrestricted access to the island for recreational purposes. Unfortunately this includes allowing dogs to run the beach during critical nesting periods for shorebirds.

The final advisory group meeting for St. Andrews State Park has been scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016.

The meeting will take place on the campus of J.R. Arnold High School (550 Alf Coleman Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32407) in the auditorium building at 9:00 AM. They will be discussing the draft management plan proposed for St. Andrews State Park. Additional Information and a digital copy of the draft management plan is available at the website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/planning/default.htm#update>.

There will also be a public hearing to discuss the draft management plan for the park on the **evening before** the scheduled advisory group meeting (Wednesday, March 16, 5:00 to 8:00 PM) at the same location. We would certainly like to encourage you or any others interested in the Division's management of the state park to attend.



A dog wanders into a posted buffer zone on Shell Island 2014.

ANSWER TO BIRD ID QUIZ

This is the Bee Hummingbird, *Mellisuga helenae*. With a mass around 0.056–0.071 oz. and a length of 2.0–2.4 in, it is the smallest living bird. The male is smaller than the female. Compared to other small hummingbirds, which often have a slender appearance, the bee hummingbird looks rounded and chunky. Females lay only two eggs, each about the size of a jellybean. This picture was taken in Western Cuba near Villa Maria del Gordo.