**Virtual Joint Meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society and the Florida Wildlife Society**

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 8-10, 2021**

Location: Zoom

Zoom links for each day will be sent to registrants

[[Register](https://fltws.org/new-events/2021/10/8/virtual-joint-meeting-of-the-florida-ornithological-society-and-the-florida-wildlife-society)](https://fltws.org/new-events/2021/10/8/virtual-joint-meeting-of-the-florida-ornithological-society-and-the-florida-wildlife-society)

\*\*Agenda items and times may change; registrants will receive final agenda along with links\*\*

Friday, October 8, 10am

Workshops

***Research on the Wade Tract Preserve, a National Natural Landmark for Longleaf Pine***– Jim Cox, Tall Timbers

***No Experience Needed: Monitoring Focal Species Using Playback Surveys***– use of playback surveys for monitoring focal species (BACS, BHNU, HAWO, LOSH) - Jim Cox, Tall Timbers

***Color-banding Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs)***- methods to overcome banding issues, Rob Meyer and others

***Translocation as Conservation: How we move RCWs*** – Monica Folk, FLTWS

***Florida Scrub-Jay* *Monitoring on Small Preserve Networks***– Monica Folk, FLTWS

***Drift fences and other methods for herp trapping***- Derek Dunlop

***Law enforcement in wildlife*** *-*Justus Nethero, wildlife enforcement officer, Ohio DNR

***Brokering conservation easements on private land***- Peter Kleinhenz, Tall Timbers

***FLTWS Natural History Quiz – a fun real-time wildlife challenge*** – Monica Folk, FLTWS

*Break for lunch*

Friday, October 8, 2pm

*Board Meetings for FOS & FLTWS in separate Zoom sessions*

Saturday, October 9​, 10am

*Presidents’ Report to the Members - Ann Paul (FOS) and Monica Folk (FLTWS)*

Presentations

*Students* (cash awards for best presentations)

**“Conservation on campus: A biological and sociological case study of the utility of green spaces at a public university” -** Vasilios Kosmakos, senior, University of Florida

**“Natal dispersal reasoning and sex bias in the family Laridae”** - Olivia Spicer, Eckerd College

**"Prescribed burning for non-target species: Habitat use and prey selection by Common Nighthawks" -**Eliza Stein, Louisiana State University, Cruickshank award winner 2020

Bird Skins Quiz - Andrew Kratter, Florida Museum of Natural History

*Break for lunch*

Saturday, October 9​, 2pm

Presentations (cont.)

*Professionals*

**“Eastern Black Rail in Florida: Assessing Occupancy in the Panhandle and Identifying State-wide Priority Areas and Research Needs”** - Heather Levy, Tall Timbers

**“Safety in safe harbor: Conserving RCWs on private lands”** - Rob Meyer, Tall Timbers

**“Long-term Research on a Curious Cooperative Breeder: The Brown-headed Nuthatch” –** Jim Cox, Tall Timbers

Keynote Speaker

**Julie Wraithmell*, Vice President and Executive Director, Audubon***

Bird Skins Quiz results, prize-winners (Outdoor World gift cards)

Sunday, October 10 (midnight-noon)

Birding Challenge 2021!

Instead of our in-person field trip, we invite our members to spend the day birding whereever they are in the country! Participants will document the bird species they see in this 12-hour timeframe. Compete at your local favorite birding area and use eBird to log encounters. Winners are those who have seen the most species. There are prizes for the top competitors in each category! Instructions provided in supplemental flyer. To participate, you must be registered for the meeting and a member of FOS or FLTWS. Good luck, and happy birding!

**Prizes**: 1st prize – [Wingspan game](https://stonemaiergames.com/games/wingspan/)

2nd prize – [Metalbird](https://metalbird.com/)) certificate

3rd prize – **$40 toward native plants** at your local plant nursery

Abstracts

**“Conservation on campus: A biological and sociological case study of the utility of green spaces at a public university”**

Vasilios Kosmakos, senior

University of Florida

Email: kosmakosv@ufl.edu

Green spaces provide a unique opportunity to understand larger biological and social phenomena. Green spaces serve as microcosms of the habitats and environments they reflect and can be used to visualize larger environmental and social issues. Through an examination of three different conservation areas on a university campus, I attempted to analyze the differences and disparities present among the use of natural spaces by different racial and ethnic groups and understand the value that urban green spaces have as islands of biodiversity within an urban setting. My findings can help inform how universities can create more equitable green areas on their campuses and creates further questions on how the green spaces owned by universities can be used in understanding the rise and fall of biodiversity levels across the country.

**“Natal dispersal reasoning and sex-bias in the family Laridae”**

OLIVIA N SPICER AND ELIZABETH A FORYS

*Departments of Environmental Studies and Biology, Eckerd College*

Email: [onspicer@eckerd.edu](mailto:onspicer@eckerd.edu)

Natal dispersal is the movement between birth and first reproductive event that typically accounts for the majority of dispersal in a bird’s life. Larids (gulls, terns, and skimmers) are primarily monogamous seabirds that nest in coastal areas. Determining the frequency and gender of natal dispersers is important for conservation and management of these species. This study sought to gather information from all available research articles about natal dispersal in the family Laridae and create an overview concerning the reasons for dispersal, as well as whether or not dispersal is sex-biased. A total of 97 species were looked at during the beginning of the study, but only 23 of these had published work regarding dispersal. Further, only 16 of the 23 species had published work involving natal dispersal, specifically. Of the 16 species, only 6 had information regarding sex-biased natal dispersal. From these species, it was found that females are often more likely to disperse than males, in general. Possible explanations for this discrepancy are that the males of some species are known to be more territorial and involved with the acquisition and maintenance of the nest. In addition to the sex-biased results, it was found that the primary reasons for natal dispersal include: the avoidance of inbreeding and intraspecific competition, as well as the movement to a better quality habitat or colony. Future studies should attempt to identify the presence of sex-bias among other species of natal dispersers to compare to the results found in this study.

**“Prescribed burning for non-target species: Habitat use and prey selection by Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*)”**

Eliza Stein, MSc, Louisiana State University

*Cruickshank award recipient*

Email: [estei18@lsu.edu](mailto:estei18@lsu.edu)

Prescribed fire is widely used in Florida to maintain and restore habitats of highly specialized, fire-adapted species, but the effects on non-target species are variable. One non-target species, the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), is a rapidly declining aerial insectivore that is often observed nesting in recently burned forest stands throughout Florida. However, there is little experimental research on the effects of prescribed fire on breeding nighthawks. In this study, I evaluate the impacts of fire recency and frequency on nesting activity and prey availability for nighthawks breeding at Citrus Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a longleaf pine ecosystem in Central Florida with an extensive fire management program. Fecal samples collected from nighthawks over the course of two breeding seasons are being used in conjunction with DNA metabarcoding to identify insect prey. Periodic surveys will measure the nesting activity and abundance of nighthawks in habitat plots that have experienced different burn schedules over the past twenty years, and simultaneous sampling of aerial insect communities will evaluate the availability of nighthawk prey items in each plot. If nighthawk abundance, nesting activity, and prey availability increase with burn frequency and recency, then nighthawks may benefit from Florida’s current fire program for longleaf pine ecosystems. In the case of alternate findings, however, fire managers may need to reexamine the current fire program to support a wider range of taxa.

**“Eastern Black Rail in Florida: Assessing Occupancy in the Panhandle and Identifying State-wide Priority Areas and Research Needs”**

Heather Levy

Tall Timbers Research Station

The Eastern Black Rail is one of the most secretive birds in North America, often referred to as a ‘feathered mouse’ for its tendency to run inconspicuously underneath thick vegetation in dense marshes. Despite challenges in studying this elusive bird, recent evaluations suggest a >85% range-wide decline and have led to a recent listing of the Eastern Black Rail as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (October 2020). Although Florida has historically been a stronghold for Eastern Black Rails, threats from sea level rise, changes in hydrology, and habitat loss persist and are expected to worsen over time. We provide a literature review summarizing research needs for these secretive marshbirds. Additionally, as part of a multi-state grant studying Eastern Black Rails on the Gulf Coast, we present results of an occupancy study conducted in the Florida Panhandle. Occupancy (0.154 ± 0.036) and detection (0.206 ± 0.048) rates were comparable with other studies and provide evidence that that surveys require multiple visits (≥ 6) and that these visits should take place between mid-April to early Augustin the Florida panhandle. We also developed an Eastern Black Rail hotspot map for the state from compiled detection histories (1885-2021) that suggests 4 priority areas in Florida likely support comparatively large breeding populations. The recent listing will hopefully result in research that sheds more light on the ecology and management needs of this mysterious bird.

**“Safety in Safe Harbor: Conserving Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on Private Lands”**

Rob Meyer and Jim Cox

Tall Timbers Research Station

Email: [rmeyer@talltimbers.org](mailto:rmeyer@talltimbers.org)

The Red Hills Region has the largest population of the endangered Red-cockaed Woodpecker (Dryobates borealis) on private lands. We discuss how safe harbor agreements have expanded across the region protecting almost 100,000 acres of sandhills habitat.