



Join Us as We Continue to  
Celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Year!



## Fall 2023 FOS Meeting

Friday, November 10 – Sunday, November 12  
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in South St. Petersburg  
Pinellas Pioneer Settlement Meeting Hall

3010 31<sup>ST</sup> Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

- **Boyd Hill Nature Preserve's Terry Tomalin Campground**, cabins and campsites available, (727)893-7326.
- **Ft. DeSoto County Park** camp sites, Customer Information Call Center – (727) 582-2100 (Select 2 from the phone menu). The Customer Information Call Center is available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Email [parcs@pinellascounty.org](mailto:parcs@pinellascounty.org) outside of call center hours; allow 24 – 48 hours for reply.

For more information about the FOS Meeting, contact Mary Mack Gray [graymarymack@gmail.com](mailto:graymarymack@gmail.com), David Goodwin [David.goodwin@aol.com](mailto:David.goodwin@aol.com), or Ann Paul [annpaul26@gmail.com](mailto:annpaul26@gmail.com).

### Friday afternoon, November 10

**2 p.m. – Board of Director's Meeting, Pinellas Pioneer Settlement Meeting Hall**  
Members welcome.

**2 p.m. – Field Trip – Explore Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, \$3/person. Leader: tba**  
Six miles of trails and boardwalks provide access to Lake Maggiore shoreline, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, upland scrub, freshwater swamp, and a freshwater marsh. The Environmental Education Center offers exhibits and an aviary with rehabilitated birds of prey. Over 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, including alligators, gopher tortoises, Florida box turtles, and eastern indigo snakes occur here. More than 60 species of butterflies have been found including giant swallowtail, southern oak hairstreak and white peacock. Year-round, Green Heron, Osprey, Common Gallinule, Eastern Screech-Owl, and Downy Woodpecker, Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, and King Rail can be found, plus more than 20 species of wood-warbler during spring and fall migration including Kentucky, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted and Wilson's. Rarities such as Long-tailed Duck, Groove-billed Ani, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville Warbler, and Lark Sparrow have also been recorded. Meet at the Education Center.

### Friday evening

**6 p.m. Supper & Flocking – An Introduction to BBA II and Tales of the BBAs.**  
Share your stories, slides, and remembrances of your BBA surveys and other work for BBA I and BBA II! That includes you, Wes!

## **Saturday morning, November 11**

**8:00 a.m. – Field Trip to Ft. DeSoto County Park, 3500 Pinellas Bayway South  
Tierra Verde, \$5/vehicle, Leader: David Goodwin**

One of Florida's premier birding sites, the Park's 1,136 acres are on five interconnected islands/keys. These keys are home to beach plants, mangroves, wetlands, palm hammocks, hardwoods and scores of native plants. Over the past 60 years, bird-watchers and ornithologists have documented more than 328 species.

## **Saturday afternoon, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve's Pinellas Pioneer Settlement Meeting Hall**

**1:30 p.m. – Membership Meeting, Announcements, FOS report from the Board**

**2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Scientific Session, Student Papers**

### **Student Presentations**

Temperatures within Least Tern nesting colonies on rooftops and beaches

Connor O'Brien, Undergraduate student, Eckerd College (Cruickshank Award recipient 2023)

Effects of Male Black Skimmer Aggression on Nesting Success and Dispersal

Jessica Hughes, Undergraduate student, Eckerd College

Evolution of vocal traits in New World quail

Brittany L. Buchanan, PhD student, University of Florida

Are social birds talking about food? Titmouse food-related vocalizations

Po-An Chen, PhD student, University of Florida

Impact of light and noise pollution on an urban adapted bird in Pakistan

Talha M. Imtiaz, Visiting PhD Scholar, University of Florida

What are they talking about? Novel approaches to decode complex bird vocalizations.

Suyash Sawant, PhD student, University of Florida

### **Scientific Presentations**

Nick Jennings, Assistant Regional Species Conservation Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Southwest Region – The Effects of Displacement on Urban Burrowing Owls

Adrienne Fitzwilliam, Assistant Research Scientist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – "Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Research and Conservation"

Kara Cook, Rooftop Biologist, Audubon Florida – "Banding Rooftop-nesting American Oystercatchers"

Beth Forys, PhD, Professor, Eckerd College – "Survival of Fallen and Returned Rooftop Nesting Least Tern Chicks"

Jeff Liechty, Coastal Biologist, Audubon Florida – "Seabird entanglement at Skyway Fishing Pier and Brown Pelican banding"

**5:30 p.m. Skin Quiz provided by Andy Kratter, Florida State Museum of Natural History**

## **Saturday evening Banquet and Keynote Talk**

**6:00 p.m. – Reception and Banquet**

**7:00 p.m. – Stephen A. Nesbitt, “Secrets of the Sandhills” or “The Life History of the Florida Sandhill Crane”**

After 35 years of working with dozens of known individual Florida Sandhill Cranes, Nesbitt, a retired biologist formerly with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will discuss what they learned. How can you tell an old crane from a young crane? How can you tell a male from a female? Do crane really pair for life? What is the typical home range for a pair of Florida Sandhill Cranes? What does it take for a pair to successfully raise a chick to the age of independence? How long can a Florida crane live? What does the future for cranes in Florida look like? These are some of the topics to be discussed.

## **Sunday morning, November 12 – Field Trips**

**8:00 a.m. – noon**

**Celery Fields, 6799 Palmer Blvd, Sarasota, Leader: Jeanne Dubi**

The location of the site, the large number of diverse bird species, and its public ownership by Sarasota County make the Celery Fields an ideal location for wildlife watching and passive recreational use. To date, 246 species have been recorded using open marshlands, deep ponds, shallow pools, and canals. The 400+ acre site is also the County’s primary stormwater collection zone. Meet Jeanne Dubi at Sarasota Audubon’s Nature Center at the intersection of Center Road and Raymond Road.

Directions: From I-75, take Exit 210, Fruitville Road. Go east and make a right at Lakewood Ranch Blvd light, then right at traffic circle onto Apex Road. Follow Apex for 1 (one) mile and make a left onto Palmer Blvd. After .3 mile turn left into parking lot which also has restrooms.

**Circle B Bar Reserve, 4399 Winter Lake Rd, Lakeland, Leader: Bob Snow and Cole Frederick**

The Circle B Bar Reserve on the northwest shore of Lake Hancock, is a former cattle ranch that today boasts a wide variety of plants and animals. is an area of protected lands in Polk County, Florida. Comprising 1,267 acres at 4399 Winter Lake Road near Lakeland, it is managed by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, which co-owns it with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. This incredible reserve is among the best inland birding and wildlife viewing spots in Central Florida boasting a bird checklist of over 220 species. Be on the lookout for alligators, eagles, osprey, red shouldered hawks, wild turkey, barred owls, wood storks, white ibis, sandhill cranes, moorhens, pied-billed grebes, black-necked stilts, red-bellied woodpeckers, bobwhite quails, eastern meadowlarks, savannah sparrows, American kestrels, great blue herons, American white pelicans, sandpipers, spoonbills, great egrets, ducks and other waterfowl and wading birds. You might also see otters, bobcats, grey fox, armadillos, squirrels (gray and fox varieties), frogs, turtles, black racer snakes, five-lined racerunner lizards and other reptiles. Many migratory birds can be found here in the winter months. Meet at the Visitors’ Center.

**Honeymoon Island State Park, #1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin, \$8/vehicle, Leader: Ann Paul, Dan Larremore, Bill Kaempfer**

One of Florida’s best-loved state parks, Honeymoon Island has more than four miles of beach to explore along with a three-mile trail through one of the last remaining virgin slash pine forests. Eagles, Osprey and Great Horned Owls, songbirds, shorebirds, and waders plus gopher tortoises, raccoons and armadillos. The Rotary Centennial Nature Center overlooks shallow waters of the St. Joseph Sound estuary. Meet at the MacDonald’s, 2618 Bayshore Blvd, Dunedin, and we will car-pool from there.



Registration Form  
**Fall 2023 FOS Meeting**  
Friday, November 10 –  
Sunday, November 12



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee, \$30/person, \$5 for students      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, November 10, Supper, \$20/person      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, November 11, Banquet, \$20/person      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your registration and check made out to “FOS” to  
Mary Mack Gray, Vice-President, 1909 Sherwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32303  
or register on-line at [fosbirds.org](http://fosbirds.org)

For more information, contact Mary Mack Gray [graymarymack@gmail.com](mailto:graymarymack@gmail.com) David  
Goodwin [David.goodwin@aol.com](mailto:David.goodwin@aol.com) or Ann Paul [annpaul26@gmail.com](mailto:annpaul26@gmail.com)