



Laughing Gull

The Newsletter of the St. Lucie Audubon Society

VOLUME 33, ISSUE VIII

MAY 2009

President's Message

As "An Advocate for the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems", this society shall be engaged in educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, philanthropic and charitable pursuits.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS has monthly meetings, open to the public, which are entertaining, informative and educational.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS has monthly field trips, open to the public, led by experienced, volunteer birders.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS offers annual bird identification classes combined with field trips.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS members saved the lives of many Gopher Tortoises by moving them from an area about to be developed to a safe habitat.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS sponsors Audubon Adventures, an elementary teaching program and an annual Environmental School Science Project Award.

MEMBERS SUPPORT THIS WORK: SLAS has informative and educational exhibits at Heathcote Holiday, Party in the Park, Naturefest and others.

Members support this work and many other projects which protect our environment, protect our wildlife and preserve our land and waters. Why not join the Audubon Society and help us make a difference.

Thanks for your support

Dan Walma

Calendar of Events

Meeting

Thursday, May 7th

Jim David, St Lucie Mosquito Control.

Field Trip

Saturday, May 9th,

Sebastian Inlet State Park (Spruce Bluff trip cancelled)

(more details at meeting)

Meeting Place

Oxbow Eco-Center

5400 NE St. James Drive, Pt St. Lucie, FL 34983

Located 1.5 miles south of Midway Road / 1.5 miles north of Airoso

Special Thanks

A special "Thank You" to The Water Lilly Cruises for sponsoring May's Meeting.

The Water Lilly Cruises

Daily Cruises leaving from the
Rivergate Marina



For more
information
or reservations
please call
772-489-8344.

Below is the copy of the letter presented to Dotty & Hank Hull at the April board meeting and all members of the Board present signed it.

April 9, 2009

Dotty and Hank Hull
 Palms of St Lucie West
 501 Cashmere Blvd Apt 214
 Port St Lucie, FL 34986

Phone: 772-340-2226

Dear Dotty and Hank:

The members of the St. Lucie Audubon Society were very sorry when you had to resign from your many duties on the Board of Directors in February 2009. While we try to understand the reason we want you to know how much you both will be missed. All the members say how much you have inspired them and furthered their education and love of birds by being with you on so many occasions.

Shortly after you joined the Society when Grace Stock was president in 1989, you became leaders of this group. Hank served as president in the 1990's for two terms.

You both led the Birding Education classes for many years. Dotty served as Membership Chairman, Adams Ranch Breakfast Planner and kept the Christmas Bird Count accurate for years. Dotty edited the Laughing Gull and wrote the Feathered Friends column. Hank served on the Board and was Field Trip Chairman and showed us many different birds.

You have given many years and hours of your life for the members of this Society. For which we all are so grateful. Today the Members join their Members of the Board of Directors to thank you and honor you both with a

“LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD”

In your beloved St. Lucie Audubon Society.

Dan Walma

Dan Walma, President

***** SPONSORS WANTED *****

St. Lucie County has a new policy of charging Non-Profits for use of County facilities. Our cost is \$45.00 per month payable in advance. We are looking for sponsors to underwrite the cost of using Oxbow-Eco-Center.

In return we will acknowledge individual or company names in our Newsletter several times during the ensuing year. If you are interested in sponsoring SLA's ongoing program please send checks to :

**ST. LUCIE AUDUBON,
 P.O. BOX 12474,
 FORT PIERCE, FL 34979**

www.stlucieaudubon.org

**ST.LUCIE AUDUBON SOCIETY 2009
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Hospitality Chair	Adella Blacka	ablacka@gmail.com
Chapter Historian	Judy Gersony	jagersony@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Mary Dodge	mary@jackmaryetc.com



**Reduce!
 Recycle!
 Reuse!**



Conservation Corner

Submitted by Ed Bowes

This should clear up the confusion surrounding the "See Insert" message in the last newsletter. This information is from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

You hear a loud thud at your living room window. Looking up, you see a few tiny feathers stuck to the glass. Others drift slowly to the ground. One more bird has been struck down in a collision with a plate-glass window. Bird-window crashes are an all-too-common phenomenon. These collisions usually involve small birds, such as finches, that fall unnoticed to the ground. Sometimes the birds are merely stunned and recover in a few moments. Often, however, they die. The number of birds killed by collisions with windows is staggering—estimates range as high as 100 million per year. Does this mean that you should stop feeding birds? Not at all. It means that if you notice birds striking your windows, you should take steps to eliminate the problem.

Some Solutions

1) Move feeders to new locations. Usually bird strikes occur at one or two windows. Moving feeders away from them may solve the problem entirely.

2) Place feeders closer to the glass. If a feeder is just a foot or two from a window, panicked birds may still fly into it, but probably won't have enough momentum to injure themselves.

3) Alter the window's appearance. If you don't want to move your feeders, or if relocating them doesn't solve your problem, you'll need to alter the appearance of the offending windows. But to do this, you'll need to figure out why the collisions are occurring. Are birds confused because the window is reflecting the landscape behind it? Is the glass so transparent they think it isn't there? To find out, you'll need to get a bird's-eye view.

See-Through Glass

Go to your feeder and look at your window. Can you see through it? If so, the birds can, too. Is there a plant inside the house that might be attractive to birds? If so, try moving it. Is there another window on the opposite side of the house, creating the illusion of a fly-through passage? Try making your windows less transparent by changing the lighting inside the house—pull a shade or open or close a door. You can also make glass less transparent by taping paper to the inside of the panes. This is unsightly, but it's a good temporary measure until you can find a better solution. Commercially available hawk silhouettes are effective at deterring window strikes, as long as you use several. They work not because they look like hawks, but because they break up the window's appearance. Another solution is to put up a commercially available decal that is a replica stabilimentum or white zig-zag from the center of an orbital spider's web. It is thought that spiders create the highly visible zig-zag so birds and large insects will avoid flying into and destroying their webs. Note: Do not attach objects directly to thermopane windows without consulting the manufacturer.

Reflective Windows

Windows that mirror the outside habitat present a different problem. If you see branches or sky reflected in the glass when you look at your windows, you'll understand why the birds are confused. Changing the lighting inside the house or fastening objects to the inside of the glass won't help. Instead, you'll need to alter the window's appearance by placing something on the outside. As a temporary measure, you can rub a bar of soap on the window (the streaks can be easily removed). Other solutions include attaching strips of paper or cardboard to the window, hanging ribbons, streamers, colored string, festive garlands, or even mobiles in front of it.

Screens and Netting

Another solution is to place some kind of screen or netting over the window. This won't obstruct the view; birds will continue to fly into the window. They should bounce off relatively unharmed. Fruit-tree netting, pulled tightly over a window should reduce or eliminate injured birds.

Membership Application

A one-year chapter membership extends from January to January. You may use the coupon below to begin or renew your membership.

SLAS is now offering a Chapter-only annual membership for those who want to financially support their local chapter. The following dues options apply:

- Individual: \$20 per year**
- Family: \$25 per year**
(for 2 or more people in same household)
- Sponsor: \$50 per year**
- Patron: \$100 per year**
- Lifetime: \$500**

Each local membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter "The Laughing Gull". You may receive "The Laughing Gull" via standard mail or electronically via email. Please indicate your preference below.

Please make checks payable to and send to:

St. Lucie Audubon Society, P.O. Box 12474,
Fort Pierce, FL 34979

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

New membership: _____ Renewal: _____

Please send my "Laughing Gull" by:
Email _____ or Standard mail: _____

Thanks for your support.

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Meeting: Thursday, May 7th

Jim David, St. Lucie Mosquito Control. He will speak about the control system and the birds associated with the area.

Field Trip: Saturday May 9th

Sebastian Inlet State Park (Spruce Bluff trip cancelled)

Our final trip of the season is geared to our "non-migratory" members! Sebastian Inlet State Park is on the Great Florida Birding Trail.....should give us ample opportunity to brush up on seagulls and other shore birds.

We will meet at the Home Depot parking-lot in Fort Pierce between 7:15am --7:30 am.....we leave at 7:30 sharp (it is about a 1 hour drive from Ft Pierce).....carpooling encouraged since there is a \$5 per car fee to enter park. We will enter the North Entrance of the park (go over the inlet bridge)...I will have directions to give out...bring your own sandwiches / drinks ...AND of course your guide -books. Any questions give me a call.....Dorothy Schultz---- Home # 879-1617 (leave a message if I am at work and I will get back to you).



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St. Lucie Audubon
P.O. Box 12474
Fort Pierce, FL 34979

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