



A Message from our President

Dear Marion Audubon Society member,

The fall migration season is upon us in Florida, and it's shaping up to be an exciting time for bird watchers! This is when our state becomes a vital stopover for a variety of migratory species. From striking warblers to soaring raptors, the diversity of birds passing through is truly remarkable.

We encourage you to join our upcoming birding outings to witness these incredible journeys firsthand. Keep your binoculars ready and your field guides handy as we explore Florida's rich birdlife this season. Let's make the most of these fleeting opportunities and share our observations with the club!

Happy Birding,
Kent Weakley
President Marion Audubon Society

JUNE Challenge Results-

Congratulations to Michael Baker, on winning the June Challenge with 84 species!

Thanks also to Michele Reyes, Paula Poblete, and Tami Reece for participating.

The June Challenge provides an enjoyable experience for bird enthusiasts, even during the hot summer months. According to eBird, Marion County had 114 species reported in June. The unexpected appearance of Roseate Spoonbills made this year's challenge even more memorable.



Have you read or heard about Project 150?

Marion Audubon Society presents Project 150 with the purpose of encouraging more birding and improving bird counts at various Marion County hotspots. You can learn more about the ten target locations and join in adding species to Marion County birding locations. Check out the details on our website [HERE](#).



Top 10 eBirders going
into 2024:



Scott Robinson	214
Tami Reece	214
Tom Hince	206
Brett Bickel	187
Elizabeth Stakenborg	181
Steve and Darcy Shaddix	175
Douglas Richard	171
Alice Horst	162
Michael Baker	159
Michele Reyes	158
Michael Warren	158

- A reminder and a thank you to our Board members of 2024-2025
- President: Kent Weakley
 - Vice-president: Max Weakley
 - Secretary: Tami Reece
 - Treasurer: Marty Schwartz
 - Memberships: Liz Stakenborg
 - Conservation: Barbara Schwartz
 - Programs: Alex Witkowski
 - Student advisor: Maddie Barber

Upcoming Events and Programs

Find us on Facebook for news, Instagram for photos and on Meetup for events.

Marion Audubon Society

Fall 2024 Schedule

[MarionAudubon.org](https://marionaudubon.org) — [Marion Audubon Meetup](#) — [Like us on Facebook](#)

Please RSVP through the Meetup app which will also keep you informed of all events.

If you're not on Meetup, you will miss out on some special last-minute opportunities for members!

FREE GUIDED TOURS

Join us as we walk around the park looking and listening for birds.

We will identify what we find and teach you how to identify birds on your own.

These tours are open to everyone. Wildlife photographers welcome.

Early Bird Walk – Tuscawilla Park

Trip Leader(s): Kent and Max Weakley

829 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470

Saturday, September 28 @ 7:00 AM

Meet & Greet Coffee – Dignity Roasters

(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING Early Bird Walk – 8:30 to 10:00 AM)

98 NE 9th Street, Ocala, FL 34470

Beginner Bird Walk – Tuscawilla Park

Trip Leader(s): Kent and Max Weakley

829 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL 34470

Saturday, September 28 @ 10:00 AM

October Big Day – Tuscawilla Park

Trip Leader(s): Kent & Max Weakley

829 Sanchez, Ocala, FL 34470

Saturday, October 12 @ 7:00 AM

October Big Day – Ocala Wetland Recharge Park

Trip Leader(s): Josie Muncy

2105 NW 21st St, Ocala, FL 34475

Saturday, October 12 @ 9:00 AM

Sunnyhill Restoration Area – Blue House

Trip Leader: Liz Stakenborg

19411 SE Hwy 42, Umatilla, FL 32784

Saturday, November 16 @ 8:30 AM

Ocklawaha Prairie Restoration

Trip Leader: Michele Reyes & Tami Reece

7910 SE 137th Avenue Rd, Ocklawaha, FL 32179

Saturday, December 21 @ 9:00 AM

SPECIALTY WALKS AND EVENTS

Our specialty walks, designated (Δ), are for paid members.

These offer an opportunity to explore new birding hotspots in and near Marion County for new and experienced birders and photographers. Additional events will be added, so be sure to keep an eye on the Meetup page to see walk details and sign up.

Driving instructions are essential for some locations and will be posted for the event.

Become a member today through our website: [MarionAudubon.org](https://marionaudubon.org)

Δ Scrub Jay Walk – Greenway Triangle

Trip Leader(s): Alex Witkowski

SW 38th Avenue @ SW 110th Street, Ocala, FL 34476

Sunday, September 22 @ 9 AM

Δ Warblers – Carney Island

Trip Leader(s): Kent Weakley

13275 SE 115th Ave, Ocklawaha, FL 32179

Saturday, October 5 @ 7AM

Δ Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive
Trip Leader(s): Max Weakley
2996 Canal Road, Apopka, FL 32703
Friday, November 22 @ 2 PM

Δ Water Reclamation Facility
Trip Leader(s): Tami Reece & Michele Reyes
4200 SE 24th Street, Ocala, FL 34471
Thursday December 5 @ 8 AM

September eBirder of the Month Challenge-There is still time to enter!!

Submit 20 or more [eligible checklists](#) in September each containing at least one [rated sound recording](#). Checklists must be for observations made this month; not historical checklists entered during September.

Win a free spot in the Cornell Lab’s raptor identification course-

How many times have you viewed a hawk from afar and wondered what it was? In September, every [eligible checklist](#) you submit gives you a chance to win free access to the

[Be a Better Birder: Hawk and Raptor Identification Course](#).

October Big Day—12 Oct 2024



Like Global Big Day, [October Big Day](#) is an opportunity to unite around our shared love of birds. [Last October](#), nearly 36,332 people from 191 countries submitted 83,735 checklists with eBird, demonstrating the power of birds to bring people together. Each year more and more participants join in this global celebration, how many people will contribute this year? [Click Here for Cornell Lab ebird.org](#)

[Join us](#) October 19th, for a Fall Horticulture Expo,



Marion Audubon has partnered with neighboring Audubon (Alachua Audubon, Four Rivers Audubon, Duval Audubon & Santa Fe Audubon) groups to present Doug Tallamy the author of Nature’s Best Hope, a New York times bestseller written for conservation practices for your own living space. Doug is an expert on increasing biodiversity by planting natives. His presentations are excellent and engaging.

And WOW!!

Look at the list of upcoming speakers we have scheduled for the next 6 months. Please mark your calendars and be sure to follow up with meet up links to register for updates and any additional information.

MAS Speaker program

By Liz Stakenborg, Membership Chair

I am so excited about our upcoming featured speakers!

All presentations will be via Zoom. Please make sure to follow us on our MeetUp page as we will be adding speakers that you won't want to miss!

On September 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm please join us to hear Scott Robinson's "A Big Year Without Technology."

In 1976 Scott won The Big Year in North America (north of Mexico) before emails, cell phones, texts, eBird, etc!! Scott is a Professor at the University of Florida with his primary focus being in avian ecology, conservation biology and habitat fragmentation. He has written and published numerous articles. He is a member of Marion Audubon, and we are lucky to have him in our midst! Click [HERE](#) for Scott Robinson's "A Big Year Without Technology."

On October 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm Ken Meyer will talk to us about "Florida's Threatened Southeastern American Kestrels and How We Can Help."

A Landscape-level study of Management Needs and Solutions for Florida's Threatened Southeastern American Kestrels." Ken co-founded the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in 1997. He has held the positions of Senior Research Ecologist and Executive Director. He has conducted 44 years of avian field research. ARCI is a publicly supported 501(c)(3) whose mission is to conduct rigorous research on vulnerable species of birds that will stimulate and inform effective conservation action.

Click [HERE](#) for Ken Meyer's

"Florida's Threatened Southeastern American Kestrels and How We Can Help."

On November 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm our own LeRoy Simon will present "Birds Far and Near."

Leroy is a Marion Audubon member, and you will often see him on our bird walks with his camera taking awesome photos! He will be talking to us about bird photography featuring his photography. Click [HERE](#) for Leroy Simon's "Birds Far and Near."

December 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm – Heather Wolf will present "Finding and IDing Birds"

Heather is a web developer for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She is also an author, photographer, speaker, and tour leader. Her books include "Birding at the Bridge: In Search of Every Bird on the Brooklyn Waterfront", and "Find More Birds: 111 Surprising Ways to Spot Birds Wherever You Are." Click [HERE](#) for Heather Wolf's Finding and IDing Birds".

January 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm – Mitchell Walters "The Birdy and Mysterious Dry Tortugas National Park." Mitch is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida studying birds, specifically the impacts of human disturbance on avian acoustics. He plans on graduating in the spring.

In addition to research, he is very passionate about teaching, bird photography, and photographic storytelling. He has had the privilege of visiting many exciting places during his time at UF and loves sharing his birdwatching adventures through photography.

Click [HERE](#) for Mitchell "The Birdy and Mysterious Dry Tortugas National Park"

Please note-There are additional awesome speakers already scheduled for 2025, we will update our information and send along with our next newsletter.

Join the Marion County Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 14, 2024.

Each year we participate in National Audubon's [Christmas Bird Count \(CBC\)](#) by splitting into teams and taking a census of the birds in our assigned circle. It's a fun opportunity to see birds and meet new people while contributing to science. The data we collect is analyzed by Cornell to determine changes to bird populations and territory over time. This project has been running for 125 years!

We need your help! If you would like to participate in the Marion CBC, email us using the "contact us" button [here](#) to be placed on a team.

Neighboring counts can use volunteers too: Emeralda CBC is scheduled for December 20. To join contact Gigi DelPizzo at G2cowgirl@yahoo.com. A portion of this count is in Marion County.

Brownwood Birders CBC is scheduled for January 2. See their website to join. <https://www.brownwoodbirders.com/christmas-bird-count>

Associated News

A big thanks to members sending along articles of interest...

A research group at the University of Toronto does work on how learning about the natural world benefits the brain and cognition. They are looking to reach birders from across North America! If you're interested in getting involved, this image has the details about a short new study on birds. It's open to everyone, from experienced birders to beginners. Participate to enter a raffle for new binoculars!

Did you know that learning skills—like bird identification—can reshape the brain? Join us as we continue to explore connections between neuroplasticity and knowledge of the natural world.

Our newest online study is now available at
www.birdingstudies.com

The study (~15min) is open to all, regardless of experience. Research updates and publications are also posted on the site so you can see what you're helping us discover. Study participation spots refresh monthly. Thanks!

 Participants can enter raffle for binoculars giveaway 



Visit the study website www.birdingstudies.com for the link to participate, as well as info on past work, articles & interviews. Many Thanks!

Thank you, Barbara Schwarz, for keeping us in the know ...

Ready to hit the Northeast Florida coastline for a fall birding extravaganza? Register for Audubon Assembly and choose your field trip option! This year, November 7-9th, not one but *two* days of birding experiences. Find all the information you need [HERE](#).

And, for sending along each of our neighboring counties call for action with the recent State Park plans for use. As Audubon members interest is high in remaining aware of the conservation management of our park resources, we appreciate all the information. shared. In case you have not read Craig Pittman’s commentary outlining recent activity, you can find it [HERE](#).

Renew your membership for 2024?
Our current count is 116 members!
Join or easily renew online thru our website:
: <https://marionaudubon.org/membership>



Want an official
MAS name tag?
We will be placing an order soon.
Cost is \$6.00
Email marionaudubon@outlook.com To be added to the list.



interest in joining Audubon began with a recommendation from a mutual friend, John Schaefer. He told our neighbor, who told Rusty of a bird walk one morning at Indian Lake Park, not far from our house. Rusty and I had never been to one, but since moving to Anthony, our interest in birds had grown.

That first walk was eye-opening! All gathered w/binoculars and walking shoes. The leader, Josie, gave advice to us all to whisper if we needed to talk, if you spot a bird, advise the group of the location by using the hands of the clock, position of the branch, or snag. So many birders could spot or hear the birds, and tried valiantly to help me-it did become easier. As the walks are early morning for the most part, just being out in nature before the noisy world began was so enjoyable! We joined up and attended more walks since then, learning always, and finding new friends!

Our fearless leader had put in the Audubon newsletter they were looking for volunteers to assist with Kestrel box monitoring. I had only an inkling of what it entailed, but thought it could only be fun, and informative.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has placed these boxes around Marion County as Kestrels are on a watch list for becoming endangered. I had never even heard of a Kestrel before joining Audubon!! Josie, Tami, Rusty, and I went out that first time and investigated 7 boxes.

With a camera on a long pole digitally connected to a camera on the ground, we investigated the box, to count eggs, fledglings, and adults present. At times there was nothing present, which was important information also. At each box it was paramount to sweep the surrounding sky to assess of any predators that may be present.

Rusty (whose job is to carry the pole, and telescope it up to the box, because he is the most muscled birder present) taps the box first to alert any adult, if present in it. Tami is keeping track with digital documentation of our observations that is sent to the FWC. It has been fun to learn of this bird's habits, and to watch the progress of the births. Utmost in our endeavors is to provide the least amount of disturbance to the nest and family. Of course, we also see, and hear many other species around these travels, we enjoy learning, always learning!

Rusty grew up on the beaches of Fort Lauderdale, I grew up on the shore of Lake Erie-small town in Huron, Ohio. I moved to Fort Lauderdale for fun in the sun after nursing school in 1978. We met my first night at Plantation Hospital (burb of Ft. Lauderdale). He was working night shift in engineering, and it was my first FL nursing job. The friendship grew and we married May 4, 1979-recently celebrated 45 years of marriage. Growing together we had 2 sons while he worked on office business machines in Lauderdale and environs. As a nurse I have worked in hospital, home health care and case management positions. We moved and built our home in Anthony to escape the concrete jungle, and craziness. Since our move we've both retired- YEA! -and enjoy recumbent biking, and Audubon. So grateful for all the good people we've met in our group and hope to continue this birding journey.



Kestrel-photo by Kristin Schlegel\



Pelagic Gray Catbirds

By Kent Weakley

When I started listing on eBird, I was excited to learn that eBird tabulates all our bird totals in numerous categories. It wasn't until much later that I first heard the term "citizen scientist." To be honest, I thought that's a catchy phrase and it will probably encourage some people to make eBird lists. However, it felt like any list I might contribute wouldn't even be a drop in the bucket, nor would I ever really know if I contributed data in a meaningful way. My short-sided thinking changed completely in May, 2024. On April 21, my wife and I left on a long-planned and eagerly anticipated transatlantic cruise from Miami to Spain. The ship we sailed on was the Oasis of the Seas operated by Royal Caribbean. Oasis of the Seas is the first in the Oasis class of five ships operated by Royal. One of the features of this ship is "Central Park" located in the center of the ship on deck eight. Surrounded by six decks of interior overlooking balconies, Central Park is a lush green carpet of over 1500 manicured plants of all sizes and 130+ trees, some reaching over 30 feet tall. Gentle curving walks make for an enjoyable stroll through the landscape paradise. Along the way there are entrances to various restaurants and shops, but the main focus is the natural green environment. In the middle walking area are solid six-story walls mirroring each other filled with cascading foliage nearly 70 feet wide. It's very easy to take a walk-through Central Park and forget you are on a ship in the middle of the ocean. After settling in we happened to take a walk-through Central Park and realized there were birds. Gray Catbirds were darting around, some disappearing through the foliage high up on the massive plant walls. I spotted a warbler on one of the trees. I raced back to our cabin to retrieve my camera and binoculars, yes, the space is that large. We saw two Black-and-white warblers, two Palm warblers, a male and female Common Yellowthroat, and numerous catbirds. It was an exciting moment, but I didn't think too much about it.



Figure 1 Oasis Central Park-photo By Kent Weakley

I love all the nature aspects of birding, first and foremost. I love learning about birds and of course the challenge of making good photographs of each species. High up on the list of reasons I love to bird, is the competition and I like to call the "gamification" of birding. I find it motivating to set goals and personal challenges and eBird checks this box quite well. One of the many personal challenges I've made is to see how many consecutive days I can submit an eBird checklist. On April 21, I was on day 903 with the goal to get to at least 1,000. One of the challenges for this trip I feared was the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. It would take us nine days to cross. All my research seemed to point to the mid-Atlantic as a relatively bird-free zone, and it was. I figured I would "bird" for a period of time and report zero pelagic birds. It was birding technically, but it seemed odd submitting a list but reporting nothing. After all, I had to maintain my consecutive listing days. Luckily, I wouldn't have to post zero-bird lists. For the first couple of days the Gray Catbirds flew around the exterior of the ship. Each time I gasped and ran for the camera only realizing it was our fellow avian shipmates. In the Central Park, the Palm warbler and Common Yellowthroats seemed to be the only ones remaining with several catbirds. So, I had plenty of subjects to list, great.

On the morning of day three we made an emergency stop in Bermuda to transfer a passenger with a medical issue. We were told the night before, so I prepared my camera and hoped for the best. The ship felt calm around 4 a.m., so I made my way to the balcony to peek. Sure enough, off to the left maybe a mile were the lights of Bermuda.

Directly under me, one of the ship’s rescue boats was deployed to transfer the passenger. As I stood in the dark contemplating the emotions of being plucked so early from a transatlantic voyage, I noticed movement along the ship’s hull. Flying fish were jumping out most likely lured by the bright lights of the ship. Within moments two birds swooped out of the darkness. I photographed as best as I could under the dark, ship-lit conditions. The blurry images pointed to the gray top and white belly of the Bermuda Petrels.

The following days brought a change of birds onboard, with only a Brown Bobby seen at sea. The Black-and-White warblers seemed to have left long ago, there was still one palm, but now we had A Northern Parula, and a Cape May Warbler. And the following day we spotted a male Baltimore Oriole sitting down low in the plants hiding. Questions were buzzing in my mind. Did the others leave the ship and attempt to get back to land? Would they make it? Did we pick up these new birds in Bermuda? How many birds are on the ship hiding that I’m not seeing?

Day seven at sea brought another surprise in the form of another passenger needing medical attention. This time we would be stopping in the Azores! What?! It was a bag of mixed emotions. I felt horrible for whoever needed medical attention, while at the same time thrilled to get a glimpse of the Azores, even if it was from a distance. My research indicated the Azores are within a massive area which is frequented by Cory Shearwaters, and it didn’t disappoint. The mountainous expanses of the Azores were shocking. I imagined small Caribbean-like islands, instead the Azores are lush green pasture-filled mountain sides more reminiscent of an English countryside scene compared to tropical islands.

We only stayed long enough to make the transfer and we were on our way again, this time in full morning sun light. The passage between islands produced hundreds of Cory Shearwaters, Yellow-legged gulls, Sperm whales, and countless jumping dolphins. It was a special treat, despite the purpose. Spending so much time counting and photographing shearwaters, I almost forgot about Central Park. We strolled through and made a quick observation of a few catbirds and a Norther Parula.

The next day, day eight, I received an email from the Portugal eBird reviewer overseeing the Azores wanting to confirm the Gray Catbird sighting. I explained the situation and that I was very familiar with the species at home and I’d post photos. He wrote back and expressed his surprise and excitement. He forwarded my info to a few friends of his in Spain and asked for updates on the catbirds. He later wrote again saying he had friends that wanted to meet the ship in Spain when we arrived. Ok, this was getting interesting. Apparently, a Gray Catbird had never been recorded in Spain, and perhaps Portugal as well. Now I felt it was my duty, my obligation to document the birds on the ship.

I spent more time patiently waiting for the birds to appear. The Northern Parula did not resurface again. Was it there and hiding, or did it leave the ship? Would the catbirds, now I could only count four reliably, leave the ship when we arrived at the port?

Day nine, arrival in Cadiz, Spain and we made it all the way across the Atlantic Ocean. Before sunrise and the gangway was opened, I raced to Central Park to see if the birds had left. Nope, there was at least two catbirds still hanging on bouncing between balconies and outdoor furniture looking for scraps. Maybe they didn’t know we were near land? The weather was drizzly and overcast. I was eager to get to a series of local parks and start adding European birds to my life list. Within a few moments before I could make my first photo, we were approached by two Spaniards in the park. “Are you the birders from the ship?” the younger of the two asked in clear, but not native English. Their excitement was evident, and we explained that the birds didn’t seem to leave the ship this morning. They asked to join us, and we started a spontaneous birding morning with the top Cadiz birders, including their local eBird reviewer.

There was a park I researched that appeared promising on eBird, but the locals explained it was no longer great because a lady is feeding cats there. I sighed and they must have seen my disappointment.

“I’m texting a friend of ours on the other side of town and he’s seeing good birds right now,” said Fernando. My brain was swirling, time to change plans. Wait, is this safe? Look at them out in the rain with their smiles, binoculars, and expensive cameras.



Figure 2 New Spanish Birding Friends- photo by Kent Weakley

They are us, just a quarter of the earth away from home. I had to laugh out loud. We boarded a city bus, which our new birding hosts kindly paid for and we arrived on the other side of town to a relatively cat-free park filled with birds.

The only issue with this park is lots of dogs. No, the dogs don't bother the birds usually, but dog waste is rarely picked up. So constantly looking up for birds needed to be mixed with careful looks around our feet. After a few hours and dozens of new birds we were all like old friends laughing and sharing stories back and forth.

Luckily, my wife who grew up in Northern Spain, was the perfect translator laughing as she shared their tidbits with me. We still needed to get back to the port area and that was handled by yet another birder who appeared with a vehicle to drive us all back to town, after he gave us a tour of Cadiz complete with raucous story telling.

We thanked them for their generous hospitality, invited them to come see us in Florida, and headed into town for tapas before rejoining the ship. At each port we diligently checked Central Park for birds.

We could only count four total catbirds. We did have a Willow Warbler on the ship briefly, but I don't think it stayed around long. And at the end of each day, we checked again, and sure enough the catbirds were still onboard. The luxury ship lifestyle must have appealed to them. I'm sure their experience on this ship was drastically different to the many cargo freighters we saw. Lush green vegetation, people eating and dropping crumbs, automatic watering systems everywhere, why would they leave?

After Cadiz, we went to Alicante, Malaga, Valencia and finally Barcelona. In Barcelona, we made one last check. Yes, the catbirds were onboard still. However, this ship would be working the Mediterranean all summer with Barcelona as its base port.

Did the Gray Catbirds get off the ship and find a home in Europe? We may. Never know. But if they are reported, now we will have a good idea where they came from. There was something important that I realized from this experience, consider adding your contact info to your eBird profile. Without my contact info on my profile, I might not have met the group in Cadiz or even realized the catbirds were that interesting to anyone else.

Also, set goals for your eBird lists and make those goals challenging to you. If I weren't trying to get to one thousand consecutive days listing, I might have been just sipping a cocktail and shrugging off those silly catbirds down in Central Park.

After returning home, the story got even more interesting. I was contacted by, Erich Hetzel a Bermuda researcher doing a Bahamas to Bermuda total daylight bird count on the ship, Arctic Sunrise. He had come across a Gray Catbird at sea and noticed my reports, around the same time, of eight catbirds. He had spotted a catbird and wondered the connection.

He then went on to explain that in Bermuda they've long wondered if many of the fall Gray Catbirds are migrants. Perhaps this will help put a piece of that puzzle together.

We have no way of knowing what data we submit to eBird will make a meaningful impact. But one thing is for sure, with all sincerity and in the spirit of the whole-is-larger-than-the-parts, everyone contributing checklists to eBird can consider themselves Citizen Scientists!

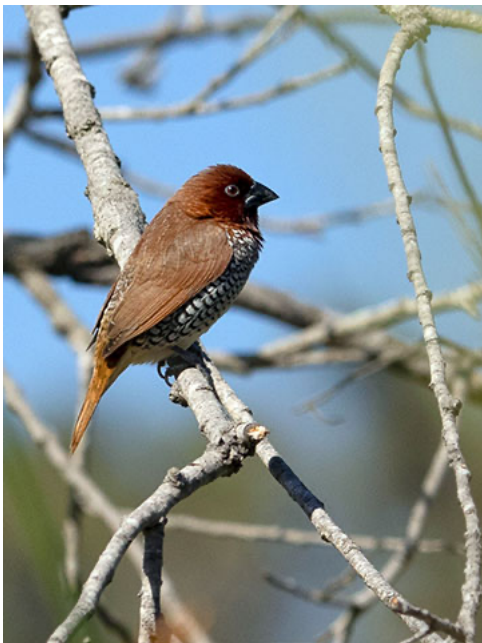


Figure 3 Pelagic Gray Catbird-photo by Kent Weakley

A Visit to North County San Diego

By Kristin Schlegel

I recently visited a patch for a four-day immersion of an abundance of flora in a unique area of Southern California. Specifically, the Carlsbad coastal scrub a Mediterranean climate, and a plethora of bird species I had not ever identified via ebird. I hiked the San Diego Botanic Garden, the hidden gem La Costa Glen trail, and the cliff walk viewpoints of the Pacific Ocean. I spotted many firsts for me! California Scrub jays are plentiful and everywhere along with the California Towhee, there were many brightly colored House Finch, and American Goldfinch, the Scaly breasted munia was a favorite, Hooded Oriels and Black- headed Grosbeaks. Along the coast I noted pelicans, gulls, and Osprey, and many hummingbirds. I was visiting my dad Alan and his wife Ann, so I found it fun to find both hummingbirds along the trail below their community, they were Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds. The blooms are varied and numerous, every plant had a flower or bud. The community gardens were lush, and the hills are filled with native plant growth.



Scaly-breasted munia



Black Phoebe



Osprey with a fish-photos by Kristin Schlegel

Wildlife photographers

You already know there are many beautiful birds and other interesting creatures right here in Marion County, but many of our friends and neighbors have not yet noticed. There's now a new group where you can share any wildlife photos you've taken in Marion County. This group is intended to provide a window for residents to see the beauty in their own backyards and inspire them to go outside and see it for themselves. Join the page to add photos or just enjoy seeing what others share. Find it on Facebook- "Marion County Birds & Wildlife" and share with your friends. Adding one to two photos per post seems to work best. Feel free to post as often as you'd like.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

All members are welcome to send articles to be included in the newsletter (300 words max.) Photos are welcome. Please include location and identify people or birds in the photo. No heavily edited images please. Our editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length, spelling, grammar, or legal reasons. Please email articles or photos to

marionaudubonnews@outlook.com

WHAT'S THIS BIRD

Need help identifying a bird? Try out the free Merlin Bird ID app for your phone. (Our YouTube channel has a tutorial). Still stumped? Post it to the "What's this bird?" page on Facebook and you're sure to get a quick response! Click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/whatsthisbird>

If it's rare for our area, shoot us a message to let us know what you've found! How do you know if it's rare? (It will come up with an orange box when you report the sighting in eBird.)



