

BIRD NOOZ



December 2 Meeting

What: Club Holiday Social

When: Wednesday, Dec. 2

Where: Hidden Cypress Ballroom

Time: 4 PM

Mingle and socialize with Club members. Enjoy lite fare and beverages. Participate in bird-related educational activity in small groups. If you plan to attend, **please reply to Noah Rosenstein by Nov. 23.** nbrosenstein@gmail.com



Partridge in a Tree? Not often.



Partridges are non-migratory, medium-sized stout-bodied Old World gallinaceous birds with variegated plumage. They thrive on cultivated land, eating grain and

green plants, and prefer running to flying if at all possible.

A humorous use of the word “partridge” is to tell everyone goodbye and then not leave. That’s a “Nice partridge.”

“A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE” HIDES A MESSAGE

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote the *12 Days of Christmas* song as a catechism lesson for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. For the meaning of each item, see the lower article on page 5.



Crested Partridge



Rock Partridge



Barbary Partridge



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1

- Partridge Portrait
- December Meeting Info.
- Partridge in Pear Tree

Page 2

- Christmas Bird Count and Backyard Bird Count Info.
- Table of Contents

Page 3

- Neotropical Birds Info.
- Space Coast Birding Info.

Page 4

- New Video: *How to Clean your Binoculars*
- Saving America's Waterfowl One Stamp at a Time

Page 5

- Birding Calendar
- Christmas Carol's Meaning

Page 6

- Bird Club Basics
- Bird Nooz Publication Information
- Holiday Greetings from Our Board



Always loved birds?
Got birds visiting your feeder, water feature?

ALL Sun City Residents Welcome!
Join in the fun.

2015 Christmas Bird Count and/or Backyard Bird Count



Sponsored by the Sun City Hilton Head Bird Club

Do your birds a big favor!
***Become involved in the longest-running
Citizen Science project in the world!***

Saturday, December 19

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)
Gather at Pinckney Hall Parking Lot at 7:45 am
Visit SCHH birding sites by golf cart. Record bird species and numbers. Return to Pinckney Hall for hot drinks and home-made snacks. Email Paula Smith at pbsmith8558@aol.com to join up.

Backyard Bird Count
Spend 30 to 60 minutes looking out your favorite window and counting bird species/numbers. ***Get instructions and download Backyard Bird Count form from our website:*** www.suncitybirdclub.org

Need a Bird I.D. Refresher Course?
Thursday, December 10, from 6 to 7:30 PM
Hidden Cypress Ballroom

DO YOU LOVE NEOTROPICAL BIRDS?

The latest issue of *Neotropical Birding*, the bi-annual magazine of the Neotropical Bird Club was recently published. It contains a wealth of interesting articles about Neotropical birds and birding. Articles range from ***Here be gadflies: pelagic birding off north-east Brazil*** by Alexander C. Lees, Fabio Olmos and Alberto Campos, through ***Finding Mexico's mystery owl — Cinereous Owl *Strix (varia?) sartorii**** by Nathan Pieplow and Andrew Spencer, to ***Markham's Storm Petrel breeding colonies discovered in Chile*** by Fabrice Schmitt, Rodrigo Barros and Heraldo Norambuena.

The Cornell Lab staff are great fans of this publication and the Neotropical Bird Club and encourage anyone with an interest in the New World tropics to join. To help entice you, the Club has made the article on finding the nesting colonies of Markham's Storm Petrel in Chile available for free [here](#).

For details on how to join, visit the club's website: <http://www.neotropicalbirdclub.org/>.



SPACE COAST (FL) BIRDING -- SITES & EXPERIENCES

If you are a birdwatcher, Florida can be birding paradise. Strategically located on the Eastern Continental Flyway, a major bird migration corridor, the region provides prime stopover habitat for many migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. In fact, more than 330 species of birds have been seen here.

Thousands of birds migrate from their northern homes to spend the winter here. The painted bunting, North America's most colorful bird, is a winter resident. The Space Coast is also home to one of the largest populations of Florida Scrub-Jays remaining in the state.

The fastest growing passive sport in America, birdwatching is an activity that can be enjoyed by families, groups and individuals. Birding is easy and inexpensive, requiring minimal equipment, skill or physical fitness. With its diverse habitats and favorable climate, it is easy to see why the Space Coast is among the best birding locations in North America.

Check out spacecoastbirding.com

Featuring numerous charismatic and colorful birds, easily seen and identified with a field guide, this area appeals to beginning birders as well as experts. The animated reddish egret (the rarest heron in North America), spectacular roseate spoonbill (the pink bird that many assume is a flamingo) and the imposing bald eagle are not as common in other areas as they are on the Space Coast. Other avian species coveted by experienced birders can be seen along the Space Coast. They include the northern caracara, snail kite, swallow-tailed kite, peregrine falcon, black rail, brown-headed nuthatch, Bachman's sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker and many more.

Another magical opportunity is the possibility of spotting pelagic seabirds in fall and winter. On days with strong winds from the northeast or east, northern gannets and jaegers may be seen offshore or even from the beach. Tropicbirds and magnificent frigatebirds are sighted occasionally.

Check out Mark Your Calendar on page 5 for January 2016 birding festival in FL.

YOUR BINOCULARS

BIRDING BASICS & BEYOND

Video Series

Bird Watcher's Digest and Vanguard have joined forces to bring you a new series of videos designed to help you become a better bird watcher. From cleaning binoculars to packing for a field trip, each of these short, how-to videos includes practical information that you can use to improve your field skills. Stay tuned for new episodes throughout the year!

Check out New Video Series: “Birding Basics & Beyond” on YouTube.
How to Clean Your Binoculars <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5DaExac1e0>

SAVING AMERICA’S WATERFOWL -- ONE STAMP AT A TIME

By the early 20th century, the beautiful Wood Duck had been nearly driven to extinction by overhunting and habitat destruction.

But in 1934, an innovative federal plan (the Duck Stamp Act), brought together hunters, artists, and wildlife managers in a conservation partnership, and now the Wood Duck and other waterfowl have made a huge comeback. Read the full story of one of the most successful but under-appreciated conservation successes of the last century. Check out academy.allaboutbirds.org “How Hunters and Artists Helped Save North America’s Waterfowl.”

DUCK STAMPS ARE FOR BIRD WATCHERS TOO -- 8 REASONS TO BUY THEM

Hunters fund conservation by buying Duck Stamps—here are 8 reasons why you should consider buying one too:

1. Over \$900 million for conservation (habitat acquisition).
2. A 79-year tradition of beautiful wildlife art.
3. A bargain, costing \$25.
4. It’s much more than ducks -- habitat serves all species.
5. Save wetlands; save grasslands.
6. The benefits are gorgeous.
7. A migratory bird stamp is your free pass to refuges.
8. As bird watchers, we can get in on the best-kept “secret”
in bird conservation.



The Cornell Lab is a strong supporter of the Migratory Bird Stamp, and has often written about its value as a direct aid to conservation. You can buy the stamp at many U.S. Post Offices, National Wildlife Refuges, and sporting-goods stores. You can also order the stamp online at the [USPS store](#) and from the stamp’s printer, [Amplex](#) (both stores add a charge for shipping).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 2

4 PM, Hidden Cypress Ballroom
“Annual Holiday Meeting and Social Event.”

Combine educational bird knowledge brain-teasers and challenges with some meet and greet activities to share this holiday time with old friends and new members.

Thursday, December 10

6 PM, Hidden Cypress Ballroom
“Bird I.D. Refresher for You”

Prepare yourself. Sharpen your Bird I.D. skills with help from expert birder, author, and fun-loving presenter Diana Churchill of the Ogeechee Audubon. Diana will share tips and tricks to help you be at the top of your birding game for the December 19 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the Backyard Bird Count.

Saturday, December 19

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Meet at at 7:45 am
Pinckney Hall Parking Lot
Leave at 8:00 am for CBC



and

Backyard Bird Count

All Daylight Hours
See information on page 2, Col. 2

January 20 - 25, 2016

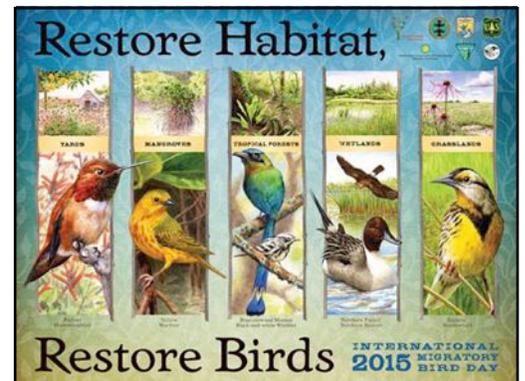
Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival,
Titusville, FL

Check out
spacecoastbirdingandwildlife festival.org
and
spacecoastbirding.com

If you plan to attend part or all of the Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival in Titusville, FL, you will meet the Florida Scrub Jay, and many more birds enjoying their local habitats.



Mary Thresher



**“A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE “
ANCIENT CAROL’S WORDS AND MEANINGS**

- (continued from page 1)
- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.*
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.*
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.*
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.*
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.*
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.*
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.*
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.*
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.*
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.*
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.*
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed..*



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SCHH Bird Club Basics

Visit Our Bird Club website: www.suncitybirdclub.org

If you are Jewish, feel free to wish me a
"Happy Hanukkah"

If you are Christian, you can wish me a
"Merry Christmas"

If you're African American, wish me a
"Joyous Kwanzaa"

If you have no affiliation, you can still wish me
"Happy Holidays"

I promise not to be offended!

I will be thankful that you care enough
to wish me well...

Please share this message, and share the love this holiday season.

Your Bird Club Board wishes you a joy-filled, loving and peaceful 2015 holiday season, and a blessed 2016 New Year.

MANY, VARIED CLUB ACTIVITIES APPEAL TO FOLKS

- Monitoring our more than 100 Bluebird nesting boxes
- Monitoring our 15 Purple Martin Condos
- Participating in Okatie-Sun City Christmas Bird Count
- Leading and/or Participating in Birding Trips, local and overnight, using our Club Birding Scope and walkie-talkies
- Participating in Seasonal "Birdfests"
- Conducting or participating in periodic Backyard Birding events

Bird Nooz is produced by SCHH Bird Club officers, volunteers, and other contributors, and is published online from September through June as an educational and informational newsletter. Your subscription is a benefit of your Club membership. It contains original Club articles, photos and information, as well as open-source material from other birding publications and sources.

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