

ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS'
2013 ANNUAL MEETING
ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION, VENUS, FL, MARCH 27-30

MEETING PROGRAM

ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION, Adrian Archbold Lodge and Learning Center, 123 Main Dr., Venus, FL 33960. Local Chair, Dr. Reed Bowman. Tel: 863-465-2571, ext 230; Fax: 863-699-1927; E-mail: rbowman@archbold-station.org; meeting web page: <http://www.afonet.org/meetings/index.html>

Tuesday, March 26

Council arrives early

6:00-9:00 pm: Dinner for Council members in the Discovery Breezeway, Francis Hufty Learning Center

Wednesday, March 27

6:30-8:30 am: Breakfast available for Council

8:30 am – 5 pm: **Council Meeting** in the Event Lobby of the Francis Hufty Learning Center.

1:00-6:00 pm: **Registration** in Lobby of the Adrian Archbold Lodge.

1:00-6:00 pm: Guides available for **walking tours** of Archbold Biological Stations various educational trails. These include our 1) Walk on the Wet Side - Water Trail; 2) Walk Through Time - History Trail; 3) RidgeScaping Trail; 4) Nature Trails (2 new); 5) Green Building Tour; 6) K-12 Educational displays; and 7) Art-Science Alliance Displays.

1:00-6:00 pm: **Skin Quiz**: We will have 20-30 prepared skins or other avian specimens (could be eggs, anatomical parts, etc.) set up in the Registration Area (Lobby of the Adrian Archbold Lodge). Test your identification skills. This will be a quiz with prizes awarded at the banquet. A Florida tradition!

6:00-7:00 pm: **Buffet Dinner** in the Discovery Breezeway of the Francis Hufty Learning Center.

7:00-9:00 pm: **Reception**, Discovery Breezeway, Meeting Rooms and Event Lobby of the Francis Hufty Learning Center - We encourage participants to bring digital images of their recent natural history adventures or of their field research. Bring your images on a thumb drive.

Thursday, March 28

6:30 – 8:00 am: **Breakfast** buffet available Discovery Breezeway of the Francis Hufty Learning Center.

6:30 – 7:30 am: **Early morning bird walks**, meet in Discovery Breezeway

8:00 – 8:30 am: **Welcome**, Dr. Hilary Swain, Executive Director of Archbold Biological Station, East and West Meeting Rooms.

8:30 – 9:30 am: **Plenary Talk, Dr. Kenneth Meyer**, Executive Director, Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Inc.

“Seasonal movements of rare Florida raptors: ecological intrigue and conservation challenges”

9:30 – 10:00 am: **Coffee Break**

10:15 – 12:00 noon: **Contributed paper sessions**, East and West meeting rooms.

12:00 – 1:00 pm: **Lunch** buffet in the Discovery Breezeway

1:00 – 2:00 pm: **AFO Annual Business Meeting**

2:15 – 3:00 pm: **Special Presentation – Melissa R. Price**, Winner, Best Student Publication Award – Journal Of Field Ornithology.

“Population status, habitat dependence, reproductive ecology, and population genetics of Bahama Orioles: a critically endangered synanthropic species”

3:00 – 3:30 pm: **Afternoon Break**
3:30 – 4:30 pm: **Contributed paper sessions**, East and West meeting rooms.
4:30 – 6:00 pm: **Contributed poster session** and cocktails, Event Lobby
6:00 – 7:00 pm: **Dinner buffet** in the Discovery Breezeway
7:00 – 10:00 pm: **Beer-tasting and dessert social**, Royal Palm Café (Ride Share)

Friday, March 29

6:30 – 8:00 am: **Breakfast** buffet available Discovery Breezeway of the Francis Hufty Learning Center.
6:30 – 7:30 am: **Early morning bird walks**, meet in Discovery Breezeway
8:00 – 8:30 am: **Announcements and schedule changes**
8:30 – 9:30 am: **Plenary Talk, Dr. Peter Frederick**, Research Professor, Dept. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida
"The unexpected dynamics of mercury contamination and wading birds in the Everglades: A tale of three scientific surprises"
9:30 – 10:00 am: **Coffee Break**
10:15 – 12:00 noon: **Contributed paper sessions: Mini Symposium on Wading Bird Ecology in South Florida**, East and West meeting rooms.
12:00 – 1:00 pm: **Lunch** buffet in the Discovery Breezeway
1:00 – 3:00 pm: **Contributed paper sessions: Mini Symposium on Florida Scrub-Jay Research**
3:00 – 3:30 pm: **Afternoon Break**
3:30 – 5:00 pm: **Workshop: Bird Banding for Graduate Students**: East and West meeting rooms.
3:30 – 5:00 pm: **Open House to Research Labs at Archbold Biological Station**, Richard Archbold Research Center
6:00 – 7:00 pm: **Pre-Banquet Social Hour** in the Discovery Breezeway
7:00 – 8:00 pm: **Buffet Banquet** in the Discovery Breezeway
8:00 – 11:00 pm: **Closing Ceremonies and Keynote Address, Dr. Reed Bowman**, Avian Ecology Program Director, Archbold Biological Station.
"Forty-four years and still going: A history of research on the Florida Scrub-Jay at Archbold Biological Station"

Saturday March 30

6:30 – 8:00 am: **Breakfast** buffet available Discovery Breezeway
7:00 am – **Field Trips Depart** (with packed lunches)

- 1) **Eco-tour of Buck Island Ranch**: A swamp buggy ride through a 10,500 acre working cattle ranch where Archbold's MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center is located. Visitors will explore habitats including pastures, prairies, hammocks, and wetlands and learn about the role of cattle ranches in Florida's environment. Species such as Crested Caracara, Sandhill Cranes, Burrowing and Barred Owls, alligators, otters, deer, wading birds, frogs and many others are commonly seen. Lunch will include a discussion of research projects being conducted at this site. Afternoon return.
- 2) **Lake Wales Ridge Birding Tour**: Visit Highlands Hammock State Park where the boardwalk through a cypress forest often yields migrants and resident birds alike. Then we will tour Avon Park Air Force Range, the military's largest aerial bombardment range east of the Mississippi. We will see the unique community of birds that occur in the longleaf pine forest, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Hear about Archbold's research at this site and the contributions of the Department of Defense to preserving this amazing landscape. Evening return.
- 3) **Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Ding Darling NWR**: Corkscrew Swamp is the National Audubon's iconic Florida preserve. A 2.25 mile boardwalk meanders through pine flatwoods, wet prairie, around a marsh and finally into the largest old growth Bald Cypress forest in North

America. Home to hundreds of alligators, otters, white-tailed deer and red-bellied turtles. A wide variety of wading birds, songbirds, raptors and the fabulous Painted Bunting can be seen throughout the year. Ding Darling NWR is located on the subtropical barrier island of Sanibel in the Gulf of Mexico. The refuge is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States. It is world famous for its spectacular migratory bird populations and wading birds.

There may be time to stop at other birds hotspots in SW Florida. Evening return.

7:00 – 12 noon: **Check-out** for 3-day registrants

6:00 – 7:00 pm: **Dinner buffet** in the Discovery Breezeway for 4-day registrants

7:00 pm: Evening on your own

Sunday March 31 HAPPY EASTER

6:30 – 8:00 am: **Breakfast buffet** available Discovery Breezeway

7:00 – 12 noon: **Check-out** for 4-day registrants

