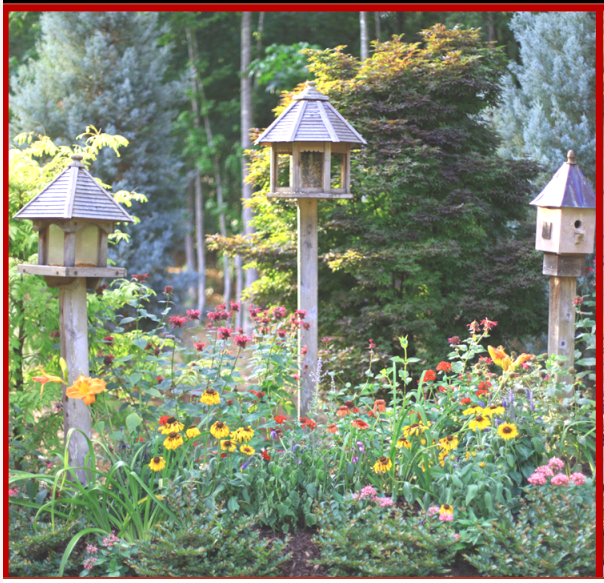
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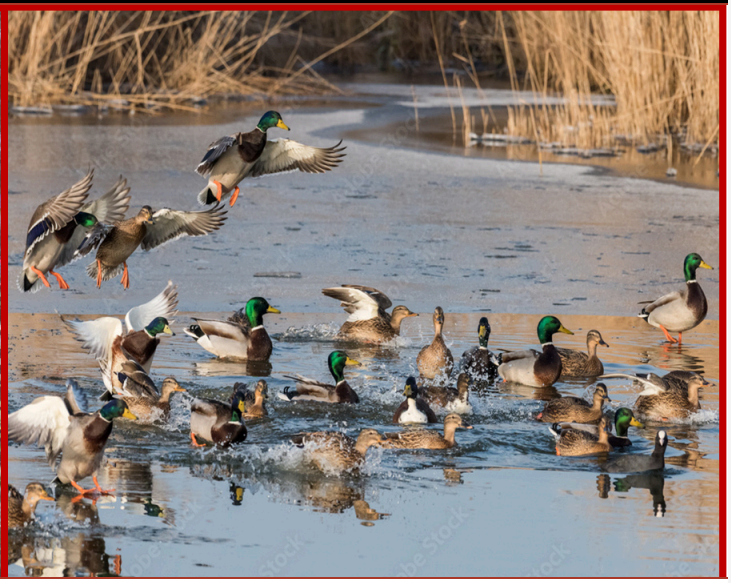
BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES

Birdwatching in November? Where?

We continue to be in the midst of Fall Migration here along the Atlantic Flyway and you are either seeing lots of birds or not so many. Why is that?

*(Answer is in this newsletter *)*





Birding Journey - November 2026

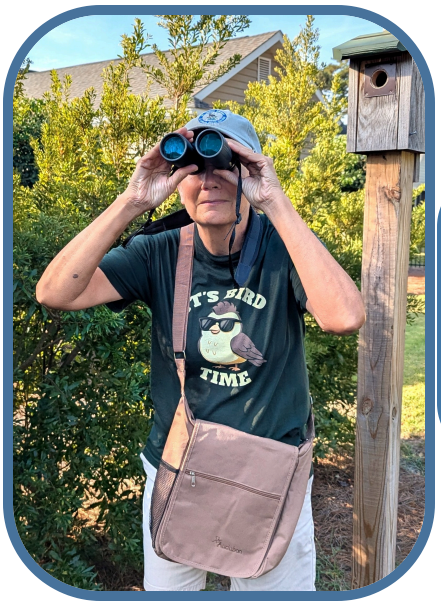
Now that I'm a "Birder" my internet surfing is filled with "targeted advertising" with all sorts of birding related stuff for sale. How about binoculars?…I have them. Membership in the Audubon Society?…Yes I am. How about a hat with a bird on it?…I have one. A t-shirt with a bird on it?…I bought *three*. But when it comes down to it, you really don't need any additional equipment to birdwatch. It's basically a free pastime, not costing a

cent. Enjoying a good walk, sitting in your yard, or just looking out the window here in St. James we are able to enjoy a good variety of birds.

We are a “Bird Sanctuary” town, I know because I see this sign positioned right below our town sign. Birds, while enjoyable to watch, are an important part of our ecosystem acting as natural pest controllers, pollinators, and seed dispersers. So, is birdwatching free? I believe the cost of enjoying the birds should be improving their habitat, a sort of “pay it forward.”

Our group is heading up a new program to add birdhouse-nesting boxes in St. James, check out our website for more information. This program will work towards bird conservation locally in St. James. It can by our “cost” for continuing to enjoy our local birds and recognizing their important role in here in St James.

Trish Greene
President - Birders of St. James



NEWS: Birders of St. James launch a community outreach initiative: “Birdhouse Trail” project.

Birdhouse Trail Project

We would like to thank Jen Williams of the St. James Landscape Committee and the Garden Club of St. James for finding us a perfect location in Woodlands Park, for our first birdhouse installation on November 5, 2026. We are working with both groups in promoting wildlife habitat and conservation throughout St. James. We dug out a perfect spot for our nesting box with an open area, afternoon shade and facing east for a nice warm sunrise. Check out out



website for more information on the **Birdhouse Trail Project.**





Photos by Trish Greene and Jen Williams

The first of many that support and enhance our community, connect residents to nature, and give back, to counter habitat loss due to development.

Want to help?

Discover Great Birdwatching Locations Right Here!

Explore some of the best birdwatching sites in and around St. James with our **Birders Hot Spots Guide**. Each month, the newsletter features a public Hot Spot with expected species, maps, photos, and an overview. Visit our website for updates from members—and enjoy this excellent season for birding.

November Hot Spot: The Atlantic Flyway - Throughout St. James.



Depending on the weather, fall migration often peaks in Brunswick County during October and November. On active nights, millions of birds travel south under the cover of darkness along the Atlantic Flyway, a major route extending from Greenland down the Atlantic Coast to the Caribbean and South America. As a Certified Wildlife Habitat, St. James provides valuable refuge for resident and migratory birds. Last month, we featured species departing for warmer regions; this month, we highlight the **birds arriving to winter here**.

By November, snow and colder temperatures across the upper Midwest and northern United States drive many wintering birds back to St. James. **Buffleheads** and **Hooded Mergansers** are among the first to arrive, while **Mallards** become increasingly common on golf course water hazards and neighborhood ponds. Large flocks of **Cowbirds** may return to feeders, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** can be seen darting through wax myrtles in search of berries. Familiar winter **Robins** are also back. **Male bluebirds** are already scouting nest sites, with females expected in February. In the weeks ahead, look for more **Carolina Chickadees, American Goldfinches, House Finches, Chipping Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers,** and **Brown-headed Nuthatches** at your feeders. Along the beaches through early January, migrating shorebirds—including **Semipalmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones,** and **Sanderlings**—may still be present.

- Pam Miller

Notable dates in November

November is National Environmental Awareness Month.
It's also National Clean Air Month.

- Sunday **Nov. 1**-World Ecology Day
- Tuesday **Nov. 3** -World Jellyfish Day
- Monday, **Nov 9** - National Natural Parks Day
- Wednesday, **Nov 11** - Veterans Day

- Sunday **Nov 15 -** America Recycles Day
- Thursday **Nov. 26** - Thanksgiving Day
  No Birders of St. James Community Program in November. Our next event takes place on Wednesday, December 9, at 7PM. "Seabiscuit Wildlife Shelter".

The Birders of St. James

"Seabiscuit Wildlife Shelter"

Wednesday December 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm

-Homer E. Wright Event Center-

Mary Ellen Rogers

Seabiscuit Wildlife Shelter of Oak Island



Mary Ellen will present on the wonderful work that she and many volunteers engage in at the Seabiscuit Wildlife Shelter which has a new facility on Long Beach Rd, Oak Island. She will be bringing her learning bird, a Kestrel, a member of the Falcon family of birds. Our St James Birder Hugh Shaw will also prepare us for the upcoming Winter bird-counts which we will be participating in here in St James.

For more Information Visit our Website: Birdersofstjames.com

Membership Renewal

This is a reminder to re-new your membership in the Birders of St James. For just $25 per year per house-hold it is a rewarding organization with benefits

contributing to a worthy cause here in St James. Your annual dues pay for speaker fees at our regular educational presentations by bird-experts at our Homer Wright Event Center. Your fees also pay for promoting bird conservation efforts with our new birdhouse nesting box program. We also have great bird-gift giveaways at our meetings! And of course your dues pays for our **Birdersofstjames.com** website and this great monthly newsletter. *What a bargain!* Renew today and help us continue to provide a unique connection to nature through the joy of birds along North Carolina's coast.

*Afterall, it **is** Environmental Awareness Month*

Renew here

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*About those birds: You see them, or you don't!

Here are a few findings that may help to explain the number of birds you are seeing at your feeders and around our ponds.
Let's start with the ponds. This season, some waterfowl have delayed their departure from the northern breeding grounds due to the warmer than usual, as temperatures over the past several weeks remain mild. While some species tend to operate on their internal clock that tells them when to head south, others take their ques from the existing conditions.

Some of the high temperatures recorded on November 5:

- Calgary, Alberta Canada: **68** / and over to Bangor, Maine: **61**
- Toronto, ON, Canada **63** / and over to Caribou Maine: **60**

That's simply not cold. Water remains warm as well which keeps some aquatic life active. Many shorebirds and ducks have been heading South but finding open water early in their journey can shorten their flight distance temporarily, keeping them elsewhere.
And for our songbirds, a similar situation can delay their departure too. To our north and here in St. James, if insects are plentiful and plants continue to produce berries and fruits, many birds stick around their breeding grounds a bit longer.

And keep this in mind regarding activity at your feeder right now; many seed and berry producing plants continue to ripen, providing natural food for birds locally. The insect population is still somewhat high for now too. Often, there can be more natural

food in October and early November than in July. Birds go for their natural food preferences first, then they visit our feeders.
Bird traffic can also depend on whether they stop in a **bird-friendly habitat** or not.

Speaking of bird-friendly habitat, St. James is home to a small flock of Eastern Wild Turkeys. There numbers have diminished over the years. The best way we can support them is to leave them alone, not approach, restrain your dogs. Learn more about them and amaze your family around the Thanksgiving table with this information from our website "Resource page:



Wild Turkey



One more thing....

We think you may know someone who needs one of these towards the end of December...

Just sayin'



BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES

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