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Rain or Shine, it's Summer Time

The sun calls you to play, but it is the rain that beckons you to party. And speaking of party, put some music on. Who knows a rain dance? (*Really. Do it today!)*

Birding Journey - July 2025

If you've been reading my birding journey in this newsletter over the past few months, you know that I have been writing about the Bluebird house in my backyard and the nesting process that I've witnessed. It's not all been textbook Bluebird reproduction, but it is happening.

One question that was asked of me is "Did you see the baby fledges in the yard after they left the nest?" The answer here is **absolutely not.** I believe (*just my own paranoid theory here*) that the parents took the fledges to a neighboring yard out of my view. They are shy birds *(mine are)* and don't like me looking at them nor their young.

“Are the Bluebirds that came to build that second nest the same as the first pair?” Answer here is…. I have **absolutely no idea**! To me, they all look the same. The only thing about that first pair was the male bird had a small white feather flipped up on his back which I attributed to a fight *(why a fight? I don’t know, I didn’t see any fights).*

So far, this birding journey has been a lot of fun, and I’ve learned a lot about our St. James ecosystem and when to help *(putting up the birdhouse)* and when to stay away *(the rest of the time.)*



Trish Greene
President - Birders of St. James



Discovering Great Birdwatching Locations

Explore top birdwatching spots in and around St. James with our Birders Hot Spots guide. Each month, our newsletter highlights a public

Hot Spot featuring expected bird sightings, maps, photos, and a narrative. Check our website for site updates from members.

July 2026 Hot Spot – **Waterway Park, St. James**

Looking for a peaceful place to enjoy birds close to home? Waterway Park, located at 2713 St James Dr SE in St James, offers a beautiful setting beside the salt marshes of the Intracoastal Waterway. This Certified Wildlife Habitat welcomes more than 100 bird species, thanks to its mix of natural habitats, feeders, and nesting boxes.

Coastal Waders & Waterbirds

Stroll near the salt marshes and living shoreline, and you may spot a wonderful variety of waterbirds:

- **Herons & Egrets:** Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and Snowy Egrets.
- **Ibises & Cormorants:** White Ibises and Double-crested Cormorants.

Gulls & Terns: Watch for Laughing Gulls and several tern species, especially near the water.

Raptors & Aerial Hunters

Be sure to look up, too—larger hunting birds are often seen overhead or along the marsh edges:

- **Ospreys:** Often seen fishing or occupying nesting platforms in the area.
- **Hawks & Vultures:** Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, as well as Turkey Vultures.

Songbirds & Backyard Visitors

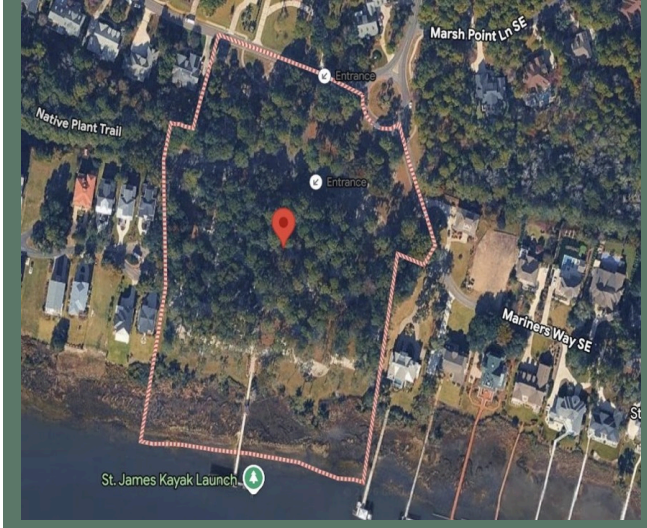
Along **The Bittenbender Trail**, bird feeders and baths invite many familiar feeder birds to stop by:

- **Common Residents:** Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, and Carolina Wrens.
- **Nuthatches & Warblers:** Brown-headed Nuthatches, Pine Warblers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Other Visitors: Mockingbirds, Blue Jays, Mourning Doves, and occasional Eastern Phoebes.

Waterway Park:











For a relaxing visit, bring a chair to the pier in the early morning, (*early morning is the best time of day for birding*) or pause quietly by the feeders along the flat gravel trail and see who comes into view.

Hot Spot update by Pam Miller & Hugh Shaw

More St. James Birds

But wait! There's More!



SAVE THE DATE

Friday July 10, 2026 at 9AM

A CELEBRATION WORKDAY IN ST. JAMES

The Living Shoreline, Waterway Park

Stop by our table for bird talk!



Also, see page 26 in your July issue of Cat-Tales Magazine

Meanwhile, on the Opposite Side of St. James…







Good News!

On 1, July 2026, Sharon Novak, a member of our Birders Club, and Hugh Shaw spent an hour and a half (5:30 to 7:00 PM) in the Wright Event Center Parking lot watching the Osprey nest built on the cell and radio tower.

Remember that after the presentation on Osprey at the Birders' June 17th meeting, several people noticed an Osprey flying in the vicinity of the event center. Well, after watching the Osprey nest in the tower through a telescope, Sharon and Hugh visually confirmed that the female Osprey has at least one baby Osprey in the nest with her.

Our patience was rewarded, when just before 7:00 PM, the male Osprey returned to the nest with a very large fish which the mother and baby immediate started to tear apart. We will continue to watch the nest for further activity. - Hugh Shaw

Check out the video we made about this discovery:



Notable Environmental Dates in July

July is Plastic Free Month - shout out to the "**Recycle St. James**" team!

- *Just for kicks* - The International Space Station will pass overhead on Monday, **July 6 at 9:29PM.** Turn off lights. It will rise from southwest to about 59 degrees.
- **Friday, July 10 - Living Shoreline Celebration - 9AM, Waterway Park**
- **Saturday, July 11** - Blue Grosbeaks are fledging in our coastal area
- **Sunday, July 12** - Goldfinches just now starting to nest.
- **Tuesday, July 14** - Shark Awareness Day.
- **Wednesday, July 15**- Peak fight period of Giant Swallowtail
- **Thursday, July 16** - World Snake Day
- **Friday, July 17** - Black Bear mating peaks
- **Saturday, July 18** - Listen carefully for the Common Nighthawk

- **Sunday, July 19** - Beginning of National Moth Week
- **Thursday, July 23** - World Whale and Dolphins Day
- **Tuesday, July 28** - World Nature Conservation Day. Gray Squirrel 2nd litters.
- **Wednesday, July 29** - Nature Photographer Day
- **Thursday, July 30** - National Wildlife Day
- **Friday, July 31** - Fence Lizard eggs are hatching

Two reminders:

1. Provide fresh water for birds.(*Right now, more important than food*)
2. See our website homepage for new tips on [mosquitos.]



BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES

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