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BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES

It's all about Bird Watching & Bird Songs

Can you hear them? The Cardinal, the Bluebird, the Brown Thrasher, they're all singing now! Declaring their territory, impressing their mate, and welcoming the spring equinox. Take a listen now, do you hear them?



It's March. The days are getting longer; sunset is a little later each day. The sun is warming the landscape and nature becomes more active. Sounds fill the air.
Click on the player for birdsong!



The Birding Journey

We call it "bird watching" but I kind of get a funny feeling that we're the ones being watched. Often, just sitting at the kitchen table in the morning staring out the window (it's ok I'm retired) I see beautiful birds land in the lawn. I'd like to get a closer look, where are those binoculars? I get up from the table and "boom" all the birds fly away. Hmm…can they see into the house?



I'll let my dog into the backyard and just as I start opening that slider "boom" again all the birds take off and perch up on nearby roofs and high in the trees. Yes, they're watching us. They've worked out their own survival "among" us, keeping a close eye on what we're up to next.

This ecosystem here in St James is a delicate balance tipped toward us…the humans. We've knocked down a lot of their trees and the birds we see here in St James are the survivors. We can help them in many ways: offering bird boxes for nesting, seeds and such at feeders, and

water in baths. When I'm out walking, the birds are flying, chirping, singing, and entertaining me.

Heading back into the house now, I pause on the porch as the Mockingbird (he's in charge in my yard) does a sweep across the yard and nestles into a shrub. That sweep across the yard is his way of sounding the all clear to the other birds. They start to head back to their roosting spots in the trees and bushes and life in St James.



It's beautiful!

Trish Greene, President, Birders of St. James

Discovering Great Birdwatching Locations

Birding Hot Spots in St. James

Discover top birdwatching spots in and around St. James with our Birders Hot Spots guide. Each month in our newsletter we will feature a public Hot Spot location with a narrative, expected bird sightings, maps, and photos.

Visit our website for the latest, as members continue to update our Hot Spot locations.

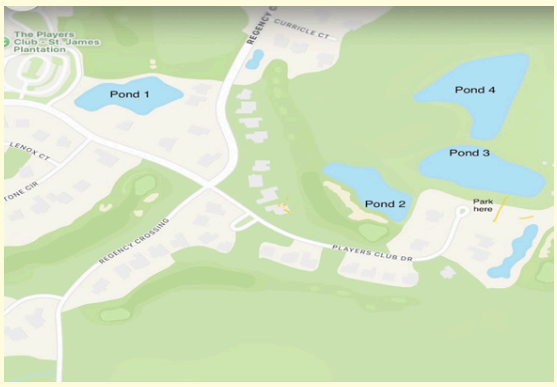
Birding Hot Spot: **Players Clubs Ponds**











There are four ponds in the vicinity of the Players Club. One adjacent to the driving range practice facility which you see on the right as you enter the Club at the parking lot. The second pond is on the left side

of the fairway for the first hole. The other two ponds are at the very end of Players Club Boulevard at a location adjacent to the cart path between the first- and second-hole tee boxes.

Most bird activity occurs at these ponds in fall, winter, and early spring. The pond next to the practice facility attracts **Mallards, occasional Pied-billed Grebes, Hooded Mergansers, Great Blue Herons, and Green Herons.**

The pond adjacent to the first hole fairway frequently hosts **Mallards, while Herons, Ibis, and Egrets** can often be observed wading along its banks.

The last two ponds, found at the end of Players Club Boulevard near the flagpole turnaround, are effluent ponds from the Brunswick County water treatment facility. The best viewing is along the gravel road, especially from November to March when uncommon duck species gather here during colder months. Observed species include **American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, American Black Duck, and Gadwall Duck.**

Mallard Ducks, Ibis, Herons, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Double-crested Cormorants, and Egrets are often seen at these ponds. At the far western end, **Turkey Vultures and occasionally Black Vultures** gather to dry their feathers.

Article by Pam Miller and Hugh Shaw. Images by Pam Miller

Birding Hot Spots

Results from the St. James Great Backyard Bird Count - 2026



During 13 February through 16 February 2026, The Birders of St. James participated in the world-wide Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the Cornell Ornithological Labs. By all measures our first effort in this four-day world-wide census was a great success. All the members of the Birders of St. James Executive Committee thank you for your contribution of time and effort to this important scientific effort for the "Love of Birds."

St. James Birders submitted 17 checklists. We identified 60 species in and over our backyards during the four days of the bird count and reported a total of 1008 birds.



The largest numbers of birds by species were American Robins at 107, Brown-headed Cowbirds at 89, Red-winged Blackbirds at 85, American Crows at 60, and Yellow-rumped Warblers at 67. We tallied 32 of our State bird, the Northern Cardinal.

Our birders recorded some noteworthy sightings of species which we do not commonly see during our bird walks and the Christmas Bird Count: Bald Eagle-thank you Jacqueline Sasser; Little Blue Heron and Baltimore Oriole-thank you to Pam Miller whose feeder cam captured a picture of the Baltimore Oriole; Pine Siskins-thank you Barbara Thornton; 37 Cedar Waxwings; thank you Ernie McLaney (30) and Barbara Thornton (7); a Black and White Warbler; thank you Cindy and Larry Trainor; 2 American Herring Gulls; thank you Art Falk. Also of interest, we recorded 11 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds which is the largest number reported at St. James during the winter months when the Christmas and Great Backyard Bird Counts are conducted.



Again, a "big shout out" to all who participated this year and we look forward to an even greater turn out for the next Christmas and Great Backyard Bird Counts.

The final tally for the Great Backyard Bird Count will not be available until sometime after the first of March. However, the data compiled at the mid-point (14 February 2026) of the Great Backyard Bird Count demonstrates the magnitude of this scientific effort to which the Birders of St. James contributed.

How many of these can you identify?

Thus far, 700,000 birders reported 7519 species compared to the grand total of 8078 species reported for 2025; 175,000 eBird checklists submitted and 641,259 Merlin submissions saved; and 200 counties and subregions reporting.

Article by Hugh Shaw

March calendar items:

- **March 3:** World Wildlife Day.
- **March 3:** Total Lunar Eclipse & Blood Moon
- **March 14:** Full "Worm" Moon
- **March 18:** Global Recycling Day
- **March 20:** World Rewilding Day & World Frog Day
- **March 20:** Spring Equinox - Official start of spring
- **March 21:** International Day of Forests.
- **March 22:** World Water Day.
- **March 23:** World Meteorological Day
- **March 28:** Earth Hour
- **March 29:** Manatee Appreciation Day
- **Last Saturday:** Earth Hour
- **All month:** Numerous species of wildlife become active including spring migration. Pollinators become active, vegetation greens up.

Did you know....?

- Bluebird lifespan is 6 to 10 years
- Primarily a cavity nester though they cannot excavate one themselves.
- They can spot insects for food from over 50 yards away.
- One Bluebird family can rid your yard of over 1,000 insects in a single day.
- Favorite food? Mealworms & insects.
- Need a top quality **Bluebird House**?
- You can **download a fact sheet.**



We have Bluebird Nestboxes!



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