

PALM COAST



birds of a
Feather Fest

featuring renowned wildlife photographer

Moose Peterson



February 9-11

Great birding trips, workshops, social events,
family fun, and much more!



www.birdingfest.com



Welcome to the Fourth Annual Feather birds of a Fest

The City of Palm Coast is proud to present the fourth annual Birds of a Feather Fest. We hope you will experience a weekend of fun, discovery and education here. We thank all of our guides in the field and in the classroom for providing you a wonderful experience.

We would also like to thank our sponsors and volunteers who support our event. Lastly, we could not present this event without the variety of bird species that call our community home.

With more than 125 miles of hiking, biking and walking trails, miles of coastline, varied habitats and more than 250 identified species, Palm Coast and greater Flagler County are a birder's paradise. Few places offer as many wonderful opportunities to enjoy nature while being so connected, accessible and clean. With a focus on families, beginners and experts alike, this festival offers something for everyone.

Take time each day to meet and mingle with attendees, presenters, field trip leaders, sponsors, and exhibitors from around the world, as well as the festival staff and volunteers. Be sure to spend time exploring all that Palm Coast has to offer.



Jason Giraulo
Founder

Our Sponsors





EVENING SOCIALS

February 9, 6:30pm
The Green Lion Cafe
Free Lite Fare, Cash Bar



Spend an evening dining and chatting with the guides of our festival. Sample delicious cuisine at The Green Lion Cafe.

February 10, 5:30pm
Flagler Auditorium
Meet and Greet with
Moose Peterson - \$30



Meet and mingle with acclaimed wildlife photographer Moose Peterson. Then join us for his keynote at 7pm.

February 10, 7:00pm
Flagler Auditorium
An Evening with
Moose Peterson - FREE



Join acclaimed wildlife photographer Moose Peterson on a 40-year journey through his photographic career.



MOOSE PETERSON

February 9, 5:00am Photo Trip & Workshop

February 10, 5:30pm at Flagler Auditorium - Pre Event

February 10, 7:00pm at Flagler Auditorium - Keynote

Moose Peterson's life passion is photographing the life history of our endangered wildlife and wild places. Since 1981 he and his wife Sharon have dedicated their lives to this pursuit. Educating the public about our wild heritage is their hallmark.



Moose added to this in 2008 aviation photography with the same goal of preserving our aviation heritage and the freedoms they protect, pictorial and oral for future generations. Along the way Moose has been honored for his photographic passion: a Nikon Ambassador USA, Lexar Elite Photographer, recipient of the John Muir Conservation Award, Research Associate with the Endangered Species Recovery Program, just to name a few. He was part of Epson's Finish Strong ad campaign. Moose was the creative producer/photographer of his acclaimed film: *Warbirds and The Men Who Flew Them*.

He shares his knowledge through his writing, being published in over 143 magazines worldwide, author of 29 books including his latest, *Take Off* and best-seller *Captured*. He lectures across the country to thousands upon thousands of photographers every year. One of the original Nikon shooters to receive the D1 in 1999, Moose embraced this new technology, becoming the only wildlife photographer in the world to shoot strictly digital in the early years. While a beta site for all the major hardware and software manufacturers, Moose continues being a creative innovator of new techniques both behind the camera and the computer, which is the driving force behind his photography and goals.



BIG TRIPS

ALL BIG TRIPS MEET AT PALM COAST CITY HALL

PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND CLOSED-TOED SHOES.
BRING SUNSCREEN AND INSECT REPELLENT.

Sunrise Bird Photography Field Trip

Moose Peterson - February 9, \$150
Trip Leaves at 5am
MiniBus - Meet at City Hall

More than 220 bird species, 63 butterfly species, reptiles and mammals call Orlando Wetlands Park their home. Break out your big lens and join world renowned wildlife photographer Moose Peterson on the photo trip of a lifetime! This photography workshop will help you take your images to the next level and help with storytelling in your images.

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

Gallus Quigley - February 9, \$30
Trip Leaves at 6am
Carpool - Meet at City Hall

Lake Apopka North Shore offers extraordinary bird-watching opportunities. It is one of the top three birding areas for the entire state (includes Everglades National Park and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge). During the winter months, more than 150 species regularly use the property, from herons and egrets to numerous warblers and flycatchers. The site set a one-day Christmas Bird Count record in 1998 when 174 species were recorded. This is the highest Florida Christmas Bird Count for any inland (versus coastal) location. The bird list continues to grow and includes 362 species.

Merritt Island NWR

David Hartgrove - February 9, \$30
Trip Leaves at 6am
Carpool - Meet at City Hall

Merritt Island NWR is known for its abundant birdlife with over 330 species and is a major destination for birders throughout the world. Thousands of migratory birds use the refuge as a temporary rest stop or spend the entire winter season in refuge impoundments. See for yourself why Merritt Island NWR is famous in the birding community.

Talbot Island State Park

Greg Miller - February 9, \$30
Trip Leaves at 7am
Carpool - Meet at City Hall

Little Talbot Island State Park is the center of the public lands on the north shore of the St. Johns River's outlet to the Atlantic. The 3.8-mile Little Talbot Hiking Trail to the island's northernmost point is a great location to see buntings, and its hammocks are good for migratory songbirds in season. At trail's end on the north point, loafing Black Skimmers and terns are common. Large numbers of Piping, Wilson's and an occasional Snowy Plover feed in winter on 5 miles of pristine beach. Other beach birds here include seven sandpiper species, four plover species, Red Knots, Dunlins, Marbled Godwits and occasionally Long-billed Curlews.

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Viera Wetlands

David Hartgrove - February 10, \$30
Trip Leaves at 6am
Carpool - Meet at City Hall

Known to most birders simply as Viera Wetlands, this water treatment facility offers exceptional birding by car, foot or bicycle. One of the star attractions is the Crested Caracara (which nests here); check the Sabal Palms and pines near the start of the loop drive and along the wetland perimeter. Drive the impoundment, scanning for waterfowl such as American Coot, Wood Duck, Northern Pintail and Hooded Merganser. Sought-after waterbirds like Least Bittern, King Rail, Limpkin, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-necked Stilt and Purple Gallinule make this a popular destination for birders and photographers. Shorebird diversity is outstanding – unusual finds include American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Two observation towers provide excellent views (a spotting scope is useful). Keep an eye out for raptors such as Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk and the occasional Snail Kite. Other rarities spotted here include Masked Duck and Mangrove Swallow.

Paynes Prairie Preserve

Gallus Quigley - February 10, \$60
Trip Leaves at 6am
Bus Provided - Meet at City Hall

Famed author and naturalist William Bartram explored the vast Paynes Prairie in 1774 and dubbed it the "great Alachua Savannah." Today this spectacular park encompasses nearly all of the 16,000-acre basin marsh and wet prairie, plus hardwood hammocks, Flatwoods, swamps, lakes, and streams. With over 270 species identified in this park, birders on this trip may see woodpeckers, songbirds, wild turkeys, Bald Eagles, hawks, waterfowl, Sandhill & Whooping Cranes, Limpkin, Purple Gallinule, a variety of rails and many others.

Sweetwater Wetlands

Greg Miller - February 10, \$60
Trip Leaves at 6am
Bus Provided - Meet at City Hall

Sweetwater Wetlands Park is not only a place to connect with nature, it's a way to protect our environment. With more than 125 acres of wetlands and ponds, Sweetwater Wetlands Park is filled with vast numbers of plants and animals, including birds, butterflies, alligators and Florida cracker horses. At the park, you can walk more than 3.5 miles of crushed gravel trails and boardwalks, experience the lush landscape from viewing platforms, and learn about the habitat.



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Merritt Island NWR

Greg Miller - February 11, \$60
Trip Leaves at 6am
Bus Provided - Meet at City Hall

Merritt Island NWR is known for its abundant birdlife with over 330 species and is a major destination for birders throughout the world. Thousands of migratory birds use the refuge as a temporary rest stop or spend the entire winter season in refuge impoundments. See for yourself why Merritt Island NWR is famous in the birding community.

Lyonia Preserve

Mary Giraulo - February 11, \$30
Trip Leaves at 7am
Carpool - Meet at City Hall

For birders, two syllables sum up this site: "Scrub Jays." Thanks to exemplary habitat management and restoration, the Lyonia Preserve north of Deltona supports numerous families of Florida Scrub Jays along with other rare, scrub-dependent flora and fauna.

BIRD WALKS

PLEASE WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND CLOSED-TOED SHOES.
BRING SUNSCREEN AND INSECT REPELLENT.

Woodpeckers and More at Princess Place

Joe & Judie Dziak
February 9 at 7am - \$15
Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Once home to a Russian prince and his princess, this preserve on the Matanzas River offers freshwater creek, salt marsh, and woodland habitats. Princess Place Preserve is home to 7 of the 8 species of Woodpecker that occur in Florida. These include Red Bellied, Red Headed, Pileated, Hairy, Downy, Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker and Northern Flicker.

Shorebirds at Matanzas Inlet

David & Dee Simpson
February 9 at 7am - \$15
Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Look for shorebirds like Semipalmated Plovers foraging along the wrack line and Spotted Sandpipers compulsively bobbing their tails. Scope the river for ducks like Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, as well as loons and grebes. On the ocean side, terns and gulls become more abundant and the opportunity to spot Northern Gannets and other pelagic birds arise. Black Skimmers and Piping Plovers can also be found here.

Gull Fly-in at Frank Rendon Park

Michael Brothers
February 9 at 2pm - \$15
Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

This beach hosts what may be the largest congregation of gulls on any beach in the United States with as many as 30,000 gulls each evening. This beach has consistently turned up species that are rare in Florida, including the only record of Vega Gull in Florida. Laughing, Franklin, Ring-billed, Herring, Bonaparte's, Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's and California Gulls have all been recorded. In addition, possible European Herring Gull, Yellow-legged Gulls and even a possible Slaty-backed Gull have appeared in the past. In addition to the gulls, this beach is the best location in Florida to regularly see jaegers from shore. Each evening the gulls leave the beach and settle on the ocean just beyond the breakers. Jaegers regularly patrol these huge groups, harassing the gulls.



BIRD WALKS

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BIRD WALKS

PARENTS MUST REMAIN WITH CHILDREN FOR ALL CLASSES.

Rail Walk at Princess Place Preserve

David & Dee Simpson

February 9 at 3pm - \$15

Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

This walk features elusive creatures of the evening. The Clapper Rail is a secretive, year-round resident of marshes along much of the Atlantic Coast. They are extremely difficult to see but can often be heard. Join us as we take on the challenge of finding this elusive creature. Take a walk on the wild side at dusk.

GTM NERR Dam Entrance

David & Dee Simpson

February 10 at 7am - \$15

Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Exploring the vast GTM Reserve is an all-day event. Birders on this trip may see Peregrine Falcons, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Gull-billed Terns, Piping Plovers, shorebirds, Clapper Rails, ducks, loons, grebes, warblers, buntings, grosbeaks and other songbirds, plovers and American Oystercatchers.

Raptors and Birds of Prey at Princess Place Preserve

Joe & Judie Dziak

February 10 at 7am - \$15

Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Florida is a leading nesting site for Bald Eagles in the United States. Learn more about these beautiful birds. Also, learn about hawks, owls and other birds of prey on this field trip.

Free Beginner Bird Walks at Central Park

Mary Giraulo, Mary Kronenberg, Frank Quinn and others

February 10 at 8am, 10am, 12pm, 2pm - FREE

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Learn the basics of birding in this free, family-friendly trip around the lake at Central Park. View birds such as Cardinals, Grackles, Vultures, Red Shouldered Hawks and even Bald Eagles along this .45-mile loop.

Walk at the Palm Coast Spray Fields

David & Dee Simpson

February 11 at 7am - \$15

Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

A Birds of a Feather Fest tradition! Get a behind the scenes peek at the City of Palm Coast rapid infiltration basin (RIB) for utility wastewater disposal. The basin system imitates an ephemeral wetland system which is a huge attractant for wading and marsh species. Be one of the unique few to visit this hidden birding treasure.

Walk at Pelicer Creek Conservation Area

Gallus Quigley

February 11 at 7am - \$15

Carpool - Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Walk along the power lines, through the sparrow-rich Pellicer Creek Conservation area near Princess Place Preserve. This walk will focus on some of the most difficult to identify species – sparrows. Possible species seen here include Bachman's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow along with other passerines such as Eastern Towhee, Eastern Phoebe, American Goldfinch, Brown Creeper, etc.



BIRD CLASSES

**CLASSROOMS MAY BE COOL. PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY.
PARENTS MUST REMAIN WITH THEIR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES.**

Bird Identification

Mary Giraulo

February 9 at 11am - \$10

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Learn the secrets to identifying numerous species in simple terms. This class will help you see the markings that make the difference and the telltale signs and distinct behaviors of birds.

Building a Bird-Friendly Backyard

Carol Mini

February 9 at 11am - \$10

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

What, when and where to plant. It's no secret that the key to attracting birds to your yard depends on three simple things. Food, water, and shelter. Learn how to incorporate native and bird-friendly landscaping to your yard.

eBird

Mary Giraulo

February 9 at 1pm - \$10

Meet at the Palm Coast City Hall

Smartphones and tablets are changing the way we get work done. They're also changing the way we bird. eBird is changing the way people bird. Join the largest bird oriented citizen-science program in the world.

PeaCee's Big Backyard

February 10 from 9am - 1pm - FREE

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

For young birders: Make pinecone bird feeders, arts and crafts, mural, games in the backyard, birds of prey shows, free beginner bird walks and more!

For adults: Learn how to set up your backyard to attract birds and butterflies, ask the experts your plant and bird feeder questions, birds of prey show, free beginner bird walks and much more!

iPhoneography (nature photography with your smart phone)

Jason Giraulo

February 9 at 10am - \$10

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

You don't need a fancy camera to take fantastic photos of birds. Learn how to use your smartphone, binoculars and spotting scope to take unforgettable photos of birds and other wildlife in this brand-new class.

BIRD CLASSES

PARENTS MUST REMAIN WITH CHILDREN FOR ALL CLASSES.

Audubon Birds of Prey Show

February 10 at 10am and 1pm - FREE

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

With live bird ambassadors and hands-on activities, participants explore the relationship of people to their natural environment while discovering the role raptors play in our local ecosystems as well as how individuals can have a positive role in the environment. Visit the birds from 9am to 1pm with shows at 10 and 1.

Pokemon Go! Birding

David & Dee Simpson

February 10 at 3pm - Free

Meet at Palm Coast City Hall

Do you play Pokemon Go? Have you ever heard of birding? You might be surprised at how much the two have in common. Join expert birders and Pokemon Go players David & Dee Simpson for a crossover class. If you can bird... You can Pokemon, and if you 'Gotta Catch em All' you can bird! Dee will give a quick talk about birding and Pokemon. Afterward, join us for a leisurely walk to start your new adventure! Please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent.

KEYNOTE EVENT

An Evening with Moose Peterson (Pre-event)

Moose Peterson

February 10 at 5:30pm - \$30

Meet at the Flagler Auditorium Lobby

Want to meet Moose Peterson? Join us for this exclusive pre-event. Chat with Moose and enjoy refreshments before the big event. Then, spend an evening with the Nikon Ambassador and Photographic Legend. Moose will share experiences from his more than 40 years in the field working with biologists and photographing endangered species.

An Evening with Moose Peterson

Moose Peterson

February 10 at 7pm - Free

Meet at the Flagler Auditorium

Spend an evening with Nikon Ambassador and Photographic Legend Moose Peterson. Moose will share experiences from his more than 40 years in the field working with biologists and photographing endangered species.

Friday, February 9

5:00am - 3:00pm	Sunrise Bird Photography at Orlando Wetlands Park
6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Merritt Island NWR
6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive
7:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Little Talbot Island State Park
7:00am - 10:00am	Woodpeckers and More at Princess Place
7:00am - 10:00am	Shorebirds at Matanzas Inlet
11:00am - 12:30pm	Bird Identification
11:00am - 12:30pm	Building a Bird-Friendly backyard
1:00pm - 2:30pm	eBird
2:00pm - 6:00pm	Gull Fly-in at Frank Rendon Park
3:00pm - 6:00pm	Rail Walk at Princess Place Preserve
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Meet and Greet the Experts at The Green Lion

Saturday, February 10

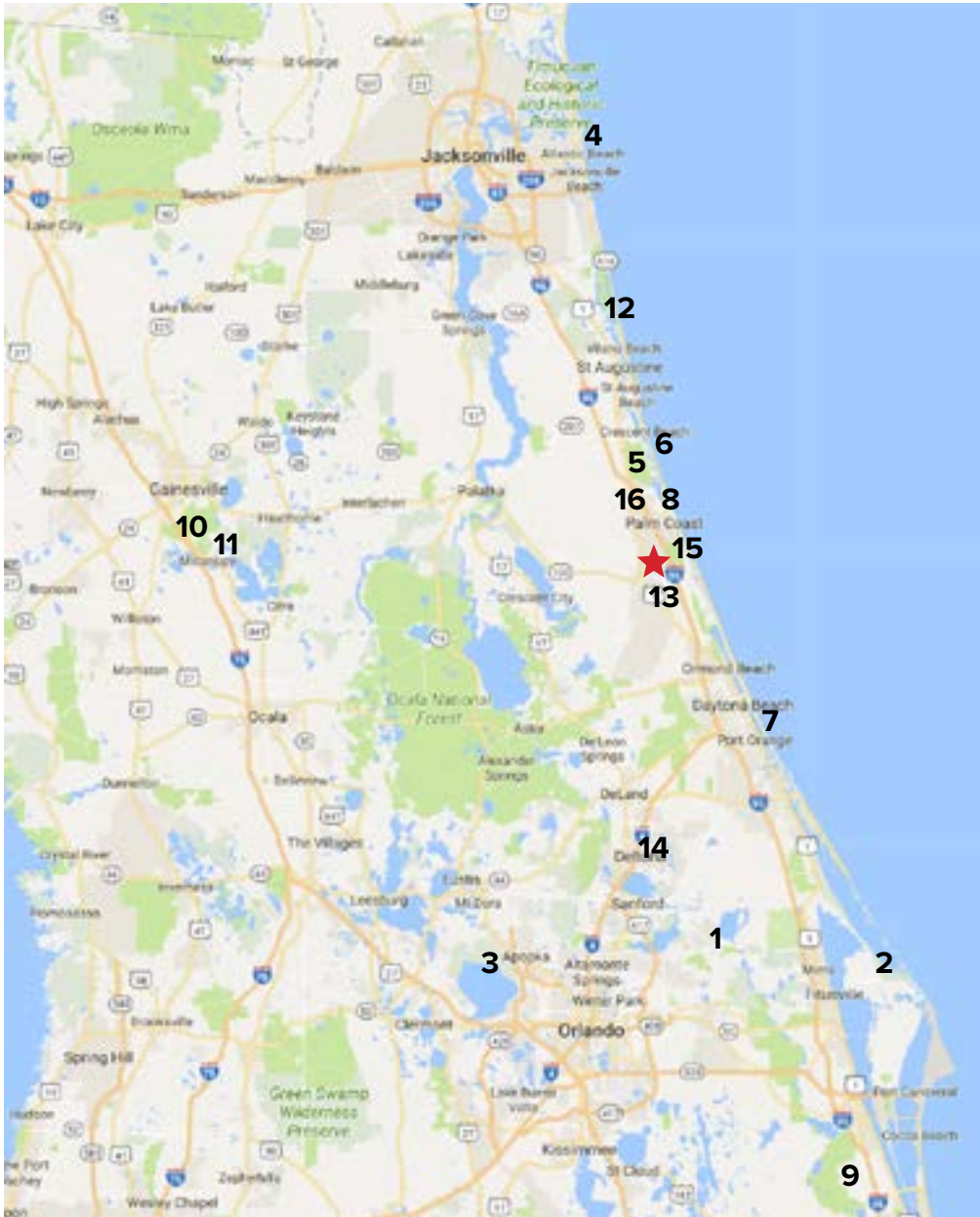
6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Viera Wetlands
6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Paynes Prairie
6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Sweetwater Wetlands
7:00am - 10:00am	Raptors and Birds of Prey at Princess Place
7:00am - 1:00pm	GTM NERR Dam Entrance
8:00am - 2:00pm	Free Beginner Bird Walks at Central Park
9:00am - 1:00pm	PeaCee's Big Backyard
10:00am - 12:00pm	iPhoneography (nature photography with your smart phone)
10:00am - 11:00am	Audubon Birds of Prey Show
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Audubon Birds of Prey Show
2:00pm - 4:30pm	Pokemon Go and Introduction to Birding
5:30pm - 6:30pm	Meet and Greet with Moose Peterson
7:00pm	An Evening with Moose Peterson

Sunday, February 11

6:00am - 4:00pm	Big Trip to Merritt Island
7:00am - 2:00pm	Big Trip to Lyonia Preserve
7:00am - 10:00am	Walk at Palm Coast Spray Fields
7:00am - 10:00am	Walk at Pellicer Creek Conservation Area



Map of trip locations



1	Orlando Wetlands Park: 25155 Wheeler Rd, Christmas, FL 32709
2	Merritt Island NWR: State Road 402, Titusville, FL 32782
3	Lake Apopka: 2803 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703
4	Talbot Island: 12157 Heckscher Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32226
5	Princess Place: 2500 Princess Place Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32137
6	Matanzas Inlet: 8825 A1A S, St Augustine, FL 32080
7	Frank Rendon: 2705 S Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118
8	Palm Harbor Golf Club: 20 Palm Harbor Dr, Palm Coast, FL 32137
9	Viera Wetlands: 10001 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32940
10	Paynes Prairie: 4270 SE 15th St, Gainesville, FL 32641
11	Sweetwater Wetlands: 325 SE Williston Rd, Gainesville, FL 32641
12	GTM NERR Dam: 505 Guana River Rd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
13	Flagler Auditorium: 5500 S.R.100, Palm Coast, FL 32164
14	Lyonia Preserve: 2150 Eustace Ave, Deltona, FL 32725
15	Sprayfields: 2230 Old Kings Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32137
16	Pellicer Creek: 430 Princess Place Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32137
★	Palm Coast City Hall: 160 Lake Ave, Palm Coast, FL 32164



