



# Winging in the Gap

Looking for something to do while distancing?

Week of May 4, 2020

Since we are unable to greet you at the Celery Fields Nature Center, we are sending you news, links to activities and learning sites to keep you up to date and actively learning about birds, wildlife and other topics of interest.

## Bird Blog

### Meet Dot: The Tropical Kingbird

by Stu Wilson

One of Sarasota's most famous avian citizens is a rare-for-Florida Tropical Kingbird who, like a reverse-snowbird, joins us here annually April through September. Dot, tenacious and pugnacious, is apparently bent on pursuing her instinctual motherhood urge to the very end.

[Learn More Here](#)



Dot was named for the temporary mark on her face noted when she was first discovered in 2013.

Photo credit Claire Herzog



*COVID-19-related budget cuts may assist the proliferation of invasive iguanas in Florida.*

Photo Credit Matt Willey

## Not so Far-Flung Features... Iguana Tell You a Story

by Craig Pittman, The Florida Phoenix

Nature does not discriminate when it comes to which animals benefit most from a lack of human interference. The ones that eat the most and breed the fastest are likely to be the winners. That's a good description of the iguanas that — with the help of careless humans — invaded Florida many years ago.

So in a few weeks, better start checking in your toilets and trees for small-scale T. Rexes, and pray that this winter includes an extreme cold snap or two.

[Full story in The Florida Phoenix here](#)

## Can Technology Help to Save the Florida Scrub-Jay?

by BY ANDERS GYLLENHAAL in Miami Herald

The Florida Scrub-Jay, the only species of bird found exclusively in Florida, has been in steady decline despite a generation of conservation. So the Archbold research center just north of Lake Okeechobee turned to a brand new technology to analyze the scrub-jay as never before. Over the coming year, the project will use the radio telemetry system to follow every waking move of young jays as they explore their territories. Already, they're making discoveries that will help make the most of the remaining scrub-jay habitat across Florida's midsection.

[Read full story here](#)



Reed Bowman of the Archbold Biological Station near one of the monitoring devices used to track young Florida scrub-jays. Photo Credit: Anders Gyllenhaal

Get Involved

### Jay Watch

*Dedicated to protecting Florida Scrub-jays, our state's only endemic bird species.*



### Summer Challenge - Jay Watch!

Photo Credit: Karen Willey

## Citizen Science

Through citizen science, people share and contribute to data monitoring and collection programs.

### Audubon Florida Jay Watch!

The state's population of Florida Scrub-Jays is estimated to have declined by 90% since the early 1800s. Between 1993 and 2010 our state's Scrub-Jay population declined another 26%

Get Involved! Onsite training sessions held annually across the Florida peninsula. [Learn More Here](#)

### Caution! Correction on Purple Gallinule Blog

by Karen Willey with Chase Bonano

**Common names can get you in trouble. Case in point: A Purple Gallinule should NEVER be called a Purple Swampphen. Why? Apparently there is a distinct Purple Swampphen that is becoming a**



threat to the actual Purple Gallinule right  
here in Florida. [Learn more here](#)



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