

## BIRDS ARE BEAUTIFUL (127)

Thursdays, 3:00 – 4:30 (5 Classes 2/1 thru 2/29 with optional field trip on 3/6) Room 19

Tuition \$42

**Walk-in \$12 Pay prior to the class in the Center 4Life Learning office.**

- Introduction to Birding: Bird watching is not complicated, but it can be more enjoyable and productive by developing skills to locate and identify the various species living in our area. Learn how to get the most out of your field guide and what to look for in a good pair of binoculars. Understand how shape, flight pattern, and behavior can be used to identify a bird. Learn proper birding etiquette, whether by yourself or with a group. You can apply new skills whether out on a field trip, or simply walking your dog.
- Birding in Central Florida: This class will focus mainly on those bird species unique to the southeast, to include wading birds such as egrets and herons, limpkin, osprey; songbirds; waterfowl; shorebirds (such as plovers, sandpipers), and others. We will discuss which species breed in our area and only visit for a portion of the year.
- Spring Migration in Florida: Many species of birds pass through our area in the spring, on their way to their northern breeding grounds. At this time of year, they are decked out in brilliant breeding plumage, making them beautiful to see. Tanager, grosbeaks, orioles, buntings, and warblers' nest throughout the northern states. We will discuss how to identify them, and where to go to best view them.
- Winter Birds in Florida: In the fall, many birds must go south to avoid cold weather and find food. Not all continue on to Central and South America; many stay here. Learn about these winter visitors, many of which are familiar to those of us who summer in the northern states. Palm and yellow-rumped warblers are here by the millions in the winter. Others include robins, catbirds, kestrels, kingfishers, house wrens, and many species of ducks. We will discuss these and learn how to identify them.
- Birds and Their Habitats: Explore general categories of Florida habitats, such as upland forests, pine flatwoods, wetlands and "suburbia." Learn the species of birds that call these areas home.
- Bird Watching Field Trip:
- **Optional March 7.** The instructor will lead a caravan field trip to Lettuce Lake. Entrance to Lettuce Lake Park is \$2 per car.

**Raymond Webb** grew up in north central New Jersey and has a BA degree from Rutgers University, majoring in Chemistry. As a member of the National Audubon Society over 40 years, he has organized and led birding field trips in New Jersey and Florida for Tampa Audubon and the Sun City Center Audubon Club. He has given programs on birding and served as Field Trip Chair for 30 years.