

## **BIRDING SPOTS IN PANAMA CITY and LYNN HAVEN**

There are several decent places to go birding in the city of Panama City. Here are a few with general directions.

**Gulf Coast State College/FSU-PC campus and Carl Gray Park.** These 2 schools are located at the foot of the Hathaway Bridge. The FSU campus and Carl Gray Park are on the bay. This is a good area to scan the shoreline and bay for ducks, shorebirds, and smaller birds in the trees. There are small ponds on the GCSC campus that can be good for wintering ducks and possibly a snipe. Loggerhead shrikes are sometimes found on the utility wires.

**Oaks by the Bay in St. Andrews,** at the end of Beck Ave. This is a small park with large oaks and other trees and a boardwalk leading to St. Andrews Bay where you can scan the shoreline and bay. In spring, watch for warblers, vireos and other birds in the trees.

**Doctors' Pond/Audubon Nature Preserve** – A property of Bay County Conservancy Located on State Avenue, off 23<sup>rd</sup> St. right behind Walmart. There is a small parking area. A short boardwalk leads to a deck where you can scan the marsh for sparrows and other birds. Wood ducks have nested here. A short narrow trail leads from the pavillion going north. May be wet at times.

**Panama City Garden Club,** Located on Garden Club Drive, off Balboa Ave. between 11<sup>th</sup> St. and West Beach Drive. A paved walking path meanders through the area through woods and ponds, which can be good during spring months and at other times too.

**Lynn Haven Recreational Complex,** located in the city of Lynn Haven, off Hwy 77. Turn east onto Hwy 390 and drive a few miles to the sign indicating the recreation complex. There is a pond to the left as you enter the park. Unusual species are sometimes seen here, including snow geese and vermilion flycatcher in the winter.

**Lynn Haven Bayou Park & Preserve** Located at 4800 County Rd.2321, behind Deer Point Elementary School. This 98-acre park opened in 2021 and features both paved and unpaved walking trails. Several bathrooms, pavilions and playgrounds are located here as well as an outdoor classroom. There are also several boardwalks and scenic overlooks into a bayou and North Bay where you may spot shorebirds, ducks marsh birds, osprey and other raptors.

**Majette Park** (formerly the Bay Dunes Golf Course), about 10 miles north off U.S. Hwy 231, on John Pitts Road. This old golf course, now a county park, has become a good birding destination because of varied habitat, including ponds and grassy areas. Golf cart trails now function as walking paths. Watch for bluebirds, sparrows, raptors and meadowlarks, among others.