

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN MURPHY, 1959–2020

John Michael Murphy was an inspired naturalist who made substantial contributions to avian conservation and the Florida Ornithological Society. He was born on November 10, 1959 in Tallahassee, Florida, and died at home in Franklin County, Florida on September 21, 2020 after a courageous two-year battle with cancer.

John grew up in Tallahassee and became interested in birds as a child through an aunt who took him on birding walks. He graduated from Florida State University and then had a 30-year career working for the Florida legislature. On retirement, he was able to further pursue his volunteer work with Florida Audubon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, mostly tracking, banding, and maintaining data on nesting shorebirds along the north Florida coast from St. Marks to Cape San Blas. He was especially interested in the bird life of St. George Island in Franklin County.

He was a valuable member of the FOS, serving as Treasurer (2012-2014), on the Records Committee (2008-2014), and as a regional compiler for the Field Observations section of the *Florida Field Naturalist* from 2010 until his death.

John was also an active public servant in Franklin County and Alligator Point where he resided. He was a member of the Alligator Point Volunteer Fire Department and the Alligator Point Taxpayers Association. He also served on the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Committee.

Self-effacing, integrity personified, John was a good friend, a true gentleman, and a keen, sharp student of birds. Someone who knew him said that the world needed more John Murphys. It sure does.

I am grateful to Deanna Murphy and R. Todd Engstrom for their help with this memoriam.

—Robert L. Crawford
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