



The Crane

Volume 57 Number 1 September—October 2015

September and October Field Trips

Included in this Crane Newsletter is a separate brochure that summarizes the Annual Field Trip Schedule for the 2015/2016 season. The Annual Field Trip Schedule can also be downloaded on the Alachua Audubon Website (alachuaaudubon.org) or obtained from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, September 12, 8:30 a.m. Poe Springs County Park: Join us for a look at one of the better fall-warbler spots in the county. Poe Springs is a 201-acre county park located on the banks of the Santa Fe River. Canada, Golden-winged, Kentucky, and Cerulean Warblers have been recorded here (though rarely, we admit). It's a 45-minute drive to get there but it's worth it, especially since the county has dropped the entry fee. It can be a bit muddy in places, so waterproof footwear or old shoes are recommended. Meet Mike Manetz at the Tag Agency (NW 34th Street just south of US-441) and carpool to Poe Springs. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, September 13, 8:00 a.m. Bolen Bluff Trail: Meet trip leader Bob Carroll at the trailhead on US-441 at the south rim of Paynes Prairie. Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations, especially during songbird migration. Entry fee: \$2 per vehicle. Difficulty: 3

Saturday, September 19, All Day; Fall Migration Count: Each fall near the peak of migration, Alachua County birders spend a day in the field to take a snapshot of fall migration. If you can identify most mi-

grants and would like to help with the Alachua County count, please contact Mike Manetz at mmanetz@yahoo.com or 352-316-0981. Difficulty: 3

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 a.m. Cedar Key by Boat (sign-up required): Join trip leader Scott Flaman and the Tidewater Tour crew on a canopied pontoon boat ride into some of the better-known shorebird haunts of the Cedar Key area. Tidewater Tour owners offer a special Alachua Audubon price of \$25 per person for this trip. Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot and get details on where to meet. Difficulty: 1

Saturday, September 26, 8:00 a.m. Levy Lake Loop: Meet fieldtrip leader Matt Bruce for a two- or three-mile walk along Levy Lake's dike trail (we won't be doing the whole loop this time). We'll be birding marsh, wet prairie, and woodland edges in search of migrant warblers, flycatchers, and swallows. To reach the trailhead, drive south on US-441 from Gainesville. Across from Lake Wauberg, turn right on Wacahoota Road (County Road 18). Go roughly half a mile and, just after the I-75 overpass, turn left on SE 11th Dr. and continue all the way down to the parking area. Difficulty: 3

Sunday, September 27, 8:00 a.m. Barr Hammock (CLEP*): Meet trip leader Michael Drummond at the Sunoco gas station at the flashing light in Micanopy on US-441 and carpool to Barr Hammock. Barr Hammock forms a land bridge (Continued on Page 10)

Trip Difficulty 1: Trip within easy access to the vehicle and/or level terrain one mile or less **2:** May involve uneven terrain one to two miles **3:** May involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and/or greater than two miles

Alachua Audubon Officers &
Chairpersons of
Standing Committees

President Anne Casella 352-378-0505
Vice President Scott Flamand 352-665-7020
Secretary Felicia Lee 714-791-8855
Treasurer Dotty Robbins 386-454-8087
Membership Paul Moler 352-495-9419
Field Trips Bob Carroll 352-372-6698
Education Emily Schwartz 352-372-0754
Birding Classes Charlene Leonard 352-226-1214
Festivals Barbara Shea 352-472-4650
Conservation Bob Simons 352-372-7646
Crane Editor Debbie Segal 352-514-0596
..... Submittals: Debbie.segal@gmail.com
Advertising Debbie Segal 352-514-0596
Website Rex Rowan 352-371-9296
Crane Circulation Erika & Bob Simons
352-372-7646
AAS Website www.alachuaaudubon.org

The Alachua Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Content of **The Crane** is the sole responsibility of AAS and fulfills stated objectives and goals of AAS. Annual subscription to **The Crane** is included in National Audubon dues. See back page for subscription information. Submissions to **The Crane** are welcomed. **The Crane** is printed on recycled paper.

**Deadline for
Nov-Dec Crane:
Oct. 15th**



I love spring migration. In that short and action-packed season most birds present their gaudiest spring plumage and often give us a bit of song in anticipation of reaching their breeding grounds. Winter is exciting too with its challenge of sparrow identification and the anticipation of rarities and irruptive species. But my

favorite birding season is fall. Spanning over four months, we watch in slow motion as different species pass through, each in its own time and space. These birds are not in such a hurry as in spring; in fact, many ground-loving warblers will set up temporary territories where they may be found for several days in a row. Fall is when warblers present their most challenging plumages, alternately frustrating and rewarding us with brief glimpses in the canopy. Then there is the joy of finding species that are difficult or impossible in spring; the mere mention of a Golden-winged, Cerulean, Canada, or Bay-breasted Warbler makes me want to grab my binoculars and run out the door! It's the best time of year to study swallows and shorebirds, and I especially treasure the experience of sitting outdoors in the cool damp of pre-dawn listening to the nocturnal passing of huge waves of thrushes and other migrants chirping and calling to one another, sometimes by the hundreds, high above in the darkness.

This year fall migration started as it always does—astonishingly early. Our first returning Black-and-White Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush showed up at the tail end of June! Mid-summer rains created a lot of good habitat for Louisiana Waterthrush, resulting in something of a banner year, with sightings from at least 21 locations, and reports of multiple birds coming from San Felasco Hammock, Bolen Bluff, Poe Springs, and the Loblolly/Hogtown Creek area. Jennifer Donsky found our first returning American Redstart on July 20th at San Felasco County Park. Rex Rowan and Ron Robinson reported our first Yellow Warblers on July 24th at La Chua Trail; our first Kentucky was seen on August 6th at San Felasco Hammock where, two days later, Felicia Lee, Barbara Shea, and Elizabeth Martin noted our first returning Worm-eating Warbler. Also there the following day John Martin spotted our first Ovenbird.

Water levels were too high at most traditional shorebird locations, but some of the flooded fields at the Hague Dairy provided a little excitement. John Hintermister checked along NW 59th Drive on July 30th and found an American Avocet, among other shorebirds, including Semipalmated, Least, Pectoral, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers. The Avocet was a one-day wonder, but some of the others stuck around for several days. John Also reported an immature Sharpshinned Hawk from the dairy. *(Continued on Page 7)*

AAS Birding Programs

Wednesday, September 30th at Millhopper Library Meeting Room (3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville) 6:30 social time, 7:00 program. ***Harpy Eagles and Chocolate, Conserving Migrant and Resident Birds in Belize.*** Presented by Jacob Marlin, Executive Director of BFREE, Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education. The discovery of the first wild Harpy Eagle population in Belize is changing the attitudes of local people about the value of protecting tropical forests. Coupled with an innovative program to support local farmers to transition from traditional agricultural practices to shade-grown organic bird friendly Cacao farming, this bodes well for the future of migrant and resident birds in Belize.

Wednesday, October 21th, at Millhopper Library Meeting Room (3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville) 6:30 p.m. social time, 7:00 p.m. program. ***Oaxaca: Land of Bird Diversity.*** Presented by Bob Wallace. Oaxaca is a land of bird diversity in the southern Mexican mountains. You will find beautiful and varied bird species from coastal deserts and tropical rain forests to high Sierra pine forests. This is the wintering range for many neotropical migrants and home to many endemic species.

Thursday, November 5th, at Millhopper Library Meeting Room (3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville) 6:30 p.m. social time, 7:00 p.m. program. ***Current Concerns for the Florida Environment: Seven Wonders.*** Jonathan Brainard, Education Chair of the Suwanee-St. John Sierra Club will call attention to some of the issues that citizens of Florida should be concerned about, such as habitat loss for bears and wildlife, fertilizer use, and water conservation.

Help AAS Protect Paynes Prairie!

Please fill out and mail the postcards that are included in this newsletter and show that you oppose ranching, timbering, and hunting in the state park.

A special thank you to Renaissance Printing for donating the printing costs for the enclosed postcards!

Community Calendar

September 19 – Florida Friendly Landscape and Garden Tour, 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Alachua County Master Gardeners will be offering a tour of Florida-friendly landscapes in the historic Duckpond area of Gainesville. These yards exemplify water conservation and environmentally friendly landscaping practices. The event starts at the Thelma Boltin Center, 516 NE 2nd Ave., for registration, exhibits, handouts, maps, and a presentation. Following the presentation, participants will tour the selected landscapes at their own pace. These landscape sites will have Alachua County Master Gardener volunteers as guides. The tour is free. Pre-registration is recommended by calling 352-337-6209 (voicemail) or 352-955-2402 for information. Parking is limited; carpooling/cycling/walking is encouraged. Guided by Alachua County Master Gardener volunteers and presented by the UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Office.

Oct. 9th and 10th—Florida Native Plant Society Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center; Native plants, wildflower seed, and nature photography will be available for purchase. Opens Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for members of Florida Native Plant Society and Friends of Nature Parks (you can join when you get there!), and to the public on Saturday from 8:30 to 12:30. More information at [352-334-3326](tel:352-334-3326) or www.natureoperations.org

Oct. 24th—Lubee Bat Conservancy 11th Annual Bat Festival, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. 1309 NW 192nd Ave. View giant fruit bats and learn how bats benefit ecosystems worldwide. Free activities, games, food, music, bounce huts, and the ***largest bats in the world!*** The Conservancy is not open to the general public on a regular basis; so this event offers a rare opportunity to see unusual bats. *Visit Alachua Audubon's booth at the Bat Festival.*

Government in the Shadows vs. Paynes Prairie

The workings of government in Tallahassee have always been messy. The money from the Florida Lottery, meant to increase funding for education, was long ago siphoned off. Amendment One, passed by a 75% majority, is suffering the same fate. Overall funding for the environment in the 2015 budget, in spite of supposed additions from Amendment One, is \$48 million less than in 2014. The Water Management Districts, designed to manage Florida's water supply to ensure a sustainable future, have been downsized and reworked to eliminate the "sustainable" aspect. And now, Tallahassee's attention has turned to Florida's State Parks. In Florida we have laws designed to help limit some of the worst aspects of state and local politics creating "Government in the Sunshine". This has never been perfect, but it has been helpful.

What is happening with our State Parks? It is hard to know, due to systematic circumventing of the "Sunshine" Law. No announcements have been made, plans revealed, nor workshops held. Only from recently retired State Park System staff do we learn of a concerted effort to dramatically alter State Park management. First, budgets and staff have been reduced year after year. Second, there seem to be plans to privatize management of parks, as more and more management activities are done by private contractors. Third, the Governor and his proposed appointee, Jon Steverson, have stated they intend to introduce hunting, cattle grazing, and timbering to State Parks to make them more profitable, known as multiple use management. Although no plans have been revealed, local cattle ranchers have been asked to consider cattle leases on Paynes Prairie.

Although Paynes Prairie has a long history as a cattle ranch, when it was purchased and added to the State Parks System, careful study determined that cattle grazing was unwise if the purpose was to preserve the native fauna, flora, and ecology of the prairie. The dikes, canals, ditches, and pumps that kept the prairie dry for grazing were removed, and the water from Sweetwater Branch has just recently been returned to the prairie.

Should all of this be undone? Should the prairie be managed as a cattle ranch? If so, why was so much tax money spent buying the land, filling in ca-

nals and ditches, removing pumps and fences, and establishing trails for visitors? Are we going to have any say in this? Are we even going to be informed?

Of course, this isn't just about Paynes Prairie, it applies to all of our State Parks. Until now, Florida's State Parks have been managed to maintain examples of natural Florida for people to visit and enjoy. Unlike the majority of public lands, such as state and national forests, wildlife refuges, and water management district lands, our State Parks have not been used for hunting, cattle grazing, or timbering for profit. When lands were purchased they were evaluated, and those that could support timbering, grazing, and/or hunting were assigned to agencies that practice multiple use management. Lands where these uses would be damaging or inappropriate were assigned to the State Park System. Although State Parks do not fully support their own management, they make about 77% of the cost. Hunting, grazing, and timbering might add to this, but at what cost? If it damages the value of the parks for ecotourism, it will clearly be a penny wise and pound foolish change. The economic value of our State Park System (voted the best in the country) to Florida's overall economy is vastly greater than the budget for park management.

It seems that all of the effort to make Florida's State Parks the best in the land and uniquely different from other sorts of public lands is about to be undone in the shadowy back rooms in Tallahassee. Or is it?
Would the people of Florida really let that happen?

What You Can Do

Join the 12,000 people who have already signed the Moveon.org petition:

http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/paynes-prairie-in-danger.fb51?source=s.fb&r_by=46840

Send the post cards included in this issue to the Governor and our legislators.

Send a letter to the editor of the Gainesville Sun:

http://www.gainesville.com/article/99999999/MULTIMEDIA/69514377?template=art_plain

By Bob Simons

K K
I O
D R
Z' N
E
R

Drawing by
Andre Frattino



Alachua Audubon Youth Birding Program

Contact Audubonyouthbirding@gmail.com for information and to sign up.

Sunday, September 20, 2015, 9-11 AM – Migration and Using Optics. Powers Park on Newnan's Lake

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 9-11 AM– Wading Birds: thriving in a created habitat. Sweetwater Wetlands Park (\$5 per vehicle)

Family Birding Program at Paynes Prairie
Register for individual sessions through Friends of Paynes Prairie website (www.prairiefriends.org). First Saturday of each month from November through April.

Saturday, November 7, 2015, 9-11 AM. Introduction to Birding. Meet at Paynes Prairie Visitor Center (use Hwy 441 entrance to Prairie).

Two Baby Snail Kites

Two baby snail kites
Sitting in their nest,
Hungry and endangered,
Hoping for the best.

Apple snails for dinner.
Apple snails for lunch.
And every Sunday morning,
Apple snails for brunch.

Two baby snail kites,
Eyes still and steady,
Waiting for a meal,
Mouths wide and ready!

Apple snails for dinner.
Apple snails for lunch.
And every Sunday morning,
Apple snails for brunch.

“Hey Mom! Hey Dad!
How about some meat?”
“So sorry, little ones.
Snails are what we eat.”

Apple snails for dinner.
Apple snails for lunch.
And every Sunday morning,
Apple snails for brunch.

By Frank Asche

Kids In The Woods

Kids today spend twice as much time indoors as their parents did, missing out on the simple pleasures and physical benefits of daily outdoor time. With a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, *Kids In the Woods* is dedicated to providing resources and creative ideas for increasing the amount of time kids spend outdoors. The goal of this two-year program is to introduce Westwood Middle School students to a science curriculum that is connected to outdoor experiences in the nearby Loblolly Nature Park. These projects include birds, trees, and water.

Annie Hermansen-Baez, from the USDA Forest Service, is the *Kids In the Woods* Project Director. Annie asked Alachua Audubon to help her sustain this project beyond the two-year grant. Audubon will partner on the birding activities and provide bird seed and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sharon Kuchinski at Sharonsmk@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed for the bird walks.

Bluebird Boxes from Mr. Nipper

Mr. Louis Nipper, of Citrus County, built and donated 36 bluebird nest boxes to Alachua Audubon, and these boxes are being installed in bluebird habitat throughout the county. These are not your standard nest boxes, but rather, upscale and exclusive, these high end nest boxes are covered in metal and painted white. At 88 years old, Louis Nipper has constructed and donated bluebird nest boxes to Audubon chapters throughout the state. He also helps to monitor and maintain over 100 nest boxes in and around Citrus County.

Mr. Nipper resides with his wife in a golf course community, and he installed two bluebird nest boxes in his yard—one in the front yard and one in the back yard. During this breeding season alone, his two nest boxes fledged over 20 bluebirds!

Look for several of Mr. Nipper's bluebird boxes in the AAS Silent Auction in December.



Photograph of Louis Nipper and one of his bluebird nest boxes. The metal stove vent pipe is an effective predator guard. Photograph taken by Debbie Segal.

Birding Classes Offered

Santa Fe College's (SFC) Community Education Program in collaboration with the Alachua Audubon Society (AAS) is offering a 4-week course in Field Identification of Birds. The next class begins September 19th and continues on the following Saturday mornings: 9/26, 10/3, and 10/17. No class on 10/10. The final class will be a longer trip to Cedar Key. Each class will be led by a local birding expert and will benefit both beginning and advanced birders. Cost for this four-day class is \$49 and generates revenue for AAS. We will visit local natural areas to identify birds in their native habitat. This time around we will feature the new gem of North Florida birding—Sweetwater Wetlands Park.

Registration is through SFC. For more information and registration go online to SFC Community Education (simply search for "Bird Watching") or call (352) 395-5193. These courses continue to receive great reviews. Limit 12 students, so register early as they fill quickly. Hope to see you in class!

Charlene Leonard, Class Coordinator

Help AAS Save \$\$s, Trees, and Fossil Fuels

Help AAS reduce our printing and mailing costs, use of paper, and all the energy and resources that go into the paper, printing, and mailing. By receiving *The Crane* electronically you can view *The Crane* in color (**color photos are so much better**) and more easily share *The Crane* with other birding enthusiasts.

If you choose to receive *The Crane* electronically, we will not bombard you with emails. Typically you will receive only one email per newsletter and the email will contain a link to the Alachua Audubon website. Simply click on the link and you will have your newsletter. Your email address will not be given to anyone. To start receiving *The Crane* electronically, simply send an email to AAS-thecrane@att.net. In the subject line put the word Newsletter. Please include your complete name, address, and membership number, if possible (top number on your mailing label on the back page of *The Crane*). If you wish to continue receiving a mailed paper copy of *The Crane*, simply do nothing and delivery of your copy of *The Crane* will not change.

NWF Certifies New Wildlife Habitat in Alachua

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is pleased to recognize Bonnie McCall of Chippawa Acres in Alachua for successfully creating an official *Certified Wildlife Habitat* site. Bonnie's garden has significantly improved habitat for birds, butterflies, frogs, and other wildlife by providing essential elements—natural food sources, clean water, cover, and places to raise young.

“Providing a home for wildlife in our communities—whether it's a home, school, business, or park—is the demonstration of a healthy and active ecosystem. There is no more rewarding way to stay connected to nature right outside your door,” said David Mizejewski, naturalist with NWF.

Bonnie noticed that after adding a pond, native plants, and a bat house, her yard and native American Indian village has come alive with so much more wildlife than she has ever seen before.

NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program has been helping people take personal action on behalf of wildlife for more than 40 years. The program engages homeowners, businesses, schools, churches, parks, and other institutions that want to make their communities wildlife friendly.



Photograph of Bonnie McCall proudly displaying her Wildlife Habitat certificate from the National Wildlife Federation.

Festival Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to help AAS, share your enthusiasm for the outdoors, and meet hundreds of nice folks at festivals and events? If you can talk about birds, especially backyard birding, then we need you. Even a few hours would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, contact Barbara Shea at acubarbarashea@juno.com

Around the County (Continued from Page 2)

Sweetwater Wetlands may "tern" out to be an interesting location for terns. Last winter it was a good spot for Forster's Terns. A handful of Least Terns appeared there in the spring, and an unusual tern was spotted that was thought to possibly be a Gull-billed Tern. On August 1st Jennifer Donsky reported a Royal Tern. Our first Black Terns of fall were at Nenwnans Lake, reported on August 9th by Debbie Segal and Bob Knight, but Sweetwater Wetlands Park looks like an ideal place for that species as well. Sweetwater also hosted a rare Shiny Cowbird on July 5th, photographed by Lloyd Davis.

Last year on August 11th, I was astonished to find an adult male Rufous Hummingbird at my feeder. This was not only an early country record, but was the same bird Fred Bassett banded in my yard the previous winter, still sporting his band. Then on August 9th of this year, Emerson Gravely reported and photographed an adult male at his feeders near Newberry, setting a new county early record. Emerson also had a Rufous in his yard the previous winter. Moral of the story: keep those feeders clean, filled, and prominently displayed!

By the time this issue of the Crane reaches your mailbox or inbox someone may well have already found our first Cerulean or Golden-winged Warbler. Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers should also be possible, along with Veery. See you out there!

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through August 16, 2015.



June Challenge Results

Congratulations to Lloyd Davis and Mike Manetz, who tied for first place in the Alachua County June Challenge by seeing 129 species. The photograph above shows Lloyd and Mike congratulating each other after having received their certificate, and Anne Casella, president of Alachua Audubon.

Madeleine Knight, age 5 and the youngest participant, placed 3rd in the Youth Division of the June Challenge after seeing 69 species. Maddy is shown below receiving her certificate from Anne Casella. Both photographs taken by Bob Knight.

The complete results of the June Challenge were published in the July/August 2015 edition of the Alachua Audubon Crane Newsletter.



Susan Justus Massage Therapy

MASSAGE FOR PAIN RELIEF & RELAXATION

Susan Justus Weinstein, BS, LMT

Licensed Massage Therapist

By appointment

352-284-7274

massagebyjustus.com

MA53410



NEOTROPICAL®

BIRDING & NATURE TRIPS

BIRDING & NATURAL HISTORY TRIPS IN ECUADOR
 AMAZON - ANDES - COAST - GALÁPAGOS

1663 SPECIES • 37 ENDEMIC • 131 HUMMINGBIRD SPECIES
 BIRDING DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!

SANTIAGO SALAZAR

GUIDE.SANTIAGOSALAZAR@GMAIL.COM

WWW.ISSUU.COM/SANTIAGO_SALAZAR_NEOTROPICAL



Thank You and Farewell Barbara Fennelly

Alachua Audubon sincerely thanks Barbara Fennelly for serving on the board and for coordinating and leading the Santa Fe College continuing education class on *Field Identification of Birds*. We wish her happiness, success, and the discovery of new birds as she and her husband relocate to Maryland. We have no doubt that she will infuse her enthusiasm, cheerfulness, and dedication to environmental education into her new community.

Thanks to the generosity of the AAS membership, we were able to raise enough money to purchase Alachua Adventure educational packets for 30 classrooms for Grades 3, 4, and 5! Topics for the 2015-16 school year are "At Home in a Habitat, Caretaking Our World's Water, and Power from Our Planet". And a huge thanks to Emily Schwartz for once again coordinating this effort.

Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed · Feeders · Nesting Boxes · Nature Gifts · Optics

4212 NW 16th Blvd Gainesville

352-381-1997

gainesville.wbu.com

gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 11-4



"A critical link in the Costa Rican Bird Route" - costaricanbirdroute.com



SELVA VERDE LODGE & RAINFOREST RESERVE

Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

Rated 4.5 out of 5 on Tripadvisor

www.selvaverde.com | 800-451-7111



SINCE 1974

BIRDING & NATURE TOURS

LATIN AMERICA, EASTERN AFRICA AND BEYOND

holbrooktravel.com | 800-451-7111 |  



Optics for the Tropics, Inc

PROVIDING QUALITY BINOCULARS TO ORNITHOLOGIST IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR BIRD CONSERVATION
DONATE TODAY!

WWW.OPTICSFORTHETROPICS.ORG



Tioga • Micanopy • Ocala • www.BlueHighwayPizza.com

Captain Doug's TIDE WATER TOURS

from Cedar Key

For the ultimate birding experience by boat to remote coastal marshes or near shore islands. Charter only.

Call or check our website:

352-543-9523

tidewatertours.com



Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery

The green burial option for people and pets that preserves and restores land, protects water and air, and allows for meaningful ceremonies.

www.conservationburialinc.org

352-317-7307



Native plant restoration
Biological Monitoring

Invasive/exotic plant surveys & control
Tree surveys & hazard tree evaluation

Erick D. Smith

erick@kestreleco.com

(352) 380-0648

Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg

michael@kestreleco.com

(352) 339-0701

www.kestreleco.com

Field Trips *(continued from page 1)*

between Ledwith and Levy Prairies, and is a county jewel that provides habitat for a wide diversity of upland and wetland species. We should see some migrant birds on this walk, but they won't be our primary quarry; we'll be looking at everything – trees, wildflowers, insects, reptiles, whatever we find. Difficulty: 2

Saturday, October 3, 8:00 a.m. San Felasco Hammock (Millhopper Rd.): Meet trip leader Steve Hofstetter at San Felasco's Millhopper Road parking lot (\$4 per vehicle entry fee). Sandhill, meandering streams, and forested slopes set the stage for the diversity of warblers, thrushes, tanagers, and other migrant birds that we'll hope to see. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, October 4, 8:00 a.m. Powers Park and Palm Point: This fieldtrip will provide migratory birding at a classic local migrant trap. The big oaks and lakeshore cypresses at Powers Park, and hardwoods along Lakeshore Drive can be excellent places to observe migrant activity. Meet trip leader Barbara Shea at Powers Park to check the trees along the boat channel and scan the lake from the fishing pier before proceeding to Palm Point. Difficulty: 1

Saturday, October 10, 6:30 a.m. Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve: Peregrine Falcons migrate down Florida's Atlantic Coast in fall, usually peaking in early October. Meet trip leader John Hintermister at Powers Park and carpool to the hawk-watching platform at the north end of the park in hopes of seeing Peregrines. During the second half of the morning we'll walk a woodland trail in search of fall warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and thrushes. Entry fee \$3 per vehicle at each location. Bring water and bug repellent. Lunch will be at Caps on the Inland Waterway. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, October 11, 8:00 a.m. Bolen Bluff Trail: Meet trip leader Matt O'Sullivan at the trailhead on US-441 at the south rim of Paynes Prairie. Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations, especially during fall songbird migration, which is beginning to peak now. This is often the best walk of the season for warblers and thrushes. Entry fee \$2 per vehicle. Difficulty: 3

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 a.m. San Felasco Hammock (Progress Center): Meet trip leader Adam Kent at the Tag Agency (NW 34th St. just south of US-441) to carpool. Entry fee \$4 per vehicle. We'll cover a variety of habitats in this walk, including marsh, field, deciduous forest, and Cellon Creek. This is very near the peak of migration for warblers, thrushes, cuckoos, tanagers, and buntings. Difficulty: 3

Sunday, October 18, 8:00 a.m. O'Leno State Park: Join us for a walk through this beautiful park on the Santa Fe River in search of warblers, tanagers, cuckoos, and other fall migrants. Meet at the Winn-Dixie parking lot north of the traffic light on US-441 in High Springs, and carpool to O'Leno. Entry fee \$5 per vehicle. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, October 25, 6:00 a.m. Road to Nowhere and Hagens Cove: Meet trip leader John Hintermister at the Tag Agency (NW 34th St. just south of US-441) and carpool to the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area for a full day of birding. The first destination will be the Road to Nowhere, a 12-mile road that traverses salt marsh, coastal hammocks, pine, and oak stands. A large diversity of birds can often be seen along this remote road. The next stop will be Hagens Cove, where shorebirds, wading birds (including Reddish Egrets), and migrant landbirds can all be observed. Bring water, bug repellent, and lunch. Difficulty: 2

(Continued on Page 11)

Field Trips (continued from page 10)

Saturday, October 31, 6:30 a.m. Cedar Key: Meet Rex Rowan in the Target parking lot and carpool to Cedar Key, a quintessential Florida birding destination where birders can often view shorebirds over one shoulder and songbirds over the other. Participants may want to stay in Cedar Key for lunch. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, November 1, 8:00 a.m. Camps Canal/Cones Dike (sign-up required): Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot on this space-limited, 3.5 mile (round trip) hike to Camps Canal and Cones Dike with field trip leader, Mike Manetz. A few fall transients may be lingering, but we'll be looking primarily for sparrows and other newly-arrived winter birds. Diff 3
*The *Conservation Lands Educational Program (CLEP)* is designed to bring attention to local land conservation efforts. These trips are conducted on properties purchased to protect natural resources and will be led by a representative who will discuss ecological features and history. CLEP trips will be educational experiences, so the emphasis will be on much more than birding.

Last year, AAS led the fight to "Keep the Barr Open" and to prevent a portion of Barr Hammock from closing to the public. Join AAS as we now advocate to keep special interests from degrading Paynes Prairie. See page 4 for ways you can help *SAVE THE PRAIRIE*.



Help AAS Protect Paynes Prairie!

Please fill out and mail the postcards that are included in this newsletter and show that you oppose ranching, timbering, and hunting in the state park.

A special thank you to Renaissance Printing for donating the printing costs for the enclosed postcards!

Audubon Assembly Conservation Event of the Year October 23-24; Maitland, FL

The theme for the Assembly is "**Parks: The Heart of Natural Florida.**" If you have visited a park in Florida, then you know first-hand their incredible value. State, county, and local conservation areas have a unique place in our network of public lands. This year's Assembly will focus on celebrating and promoting these "special places" and discussing how we can protect and enhance our natural areas for future generations. You will leave inspired to engage a broader more diverse audience to secure Florida's internationally-recognized system of public conservation lands.

The Audubon Assembly is a great chance to reconnect with *natural* Florida, attend interesting workshops with leading guest speakers, join local Audubon chapter leaders for field trips, take part in Audubon Florida's unique conservation agenda setting session...*and much more!*

Fieldtrips are planned for Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Wekiwa Springs State Park, Lake Jesup Wilderness Area, Mead Gardens, and the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey.

Keynote Speaker will be Rafael Galvez, celebrated artist, birding tour leader, and director of Florida Keys Hawkwatch.

For more information and to register for the Alachua Assembly, go to <http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-assembly-2015-parks-heart-natural-florida>

Alachua Audubon Society
P. O. Box 140464
Gainesville, Florida 32614-0464

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Gainesville Florida 32601
Permit No. 18



The Crane
Sept.—Oct. 2015

Visit Alachua Audubon Society on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/alachuaaudubon> and click “like” and you will be kept up to date on field trips, events, and more!

Join Audubon!

To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in application and mail to:
Paul Moler 7818 SW Co Rd 346 Archer, Florida 32618

Make check payable to National Audubon Society

Chapter E-18 New Membership Application
Not for renewals!

Name: _____
Telephone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Please check level of membership:

- Basic \$35.00
 Introductory Membership: One Year \$20.00

Chapter ONLY Membership \$10.00
(For Chapter Only, receive the local Crane Newsletter but no National or State Publication)

For Chapter Only, make check payable to
Alachua Audubon Society

Questions? Contact Paul 352-495-9419 or
paulmoler@bellsouth.net