



The Crane

Volume 58 Number 1 September—October 2016

September and October Field Trips

Included in this Crane Newsletter is a separate brochure that summarizes the Annual Field Trip Schedule for the 2016/2017 season. The Annual Field Trip Schedule can also be downloaded on the Alachua Audubon Website (alachuaudubon.org) or obtained from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Wednesday Bird Walks at Sweetwater Wetlands Park, 8:30 a.m.: Audubon-led bird walks will resume again every Wednesday starting September 7th and will continue through the end of May.

Saturday, September 10, 8:30 a.m.
Poe Springs County Park: Join us for a walk through 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. 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, and remember your bug repellent. Meet Mike Manetz at the Tag Agency (NW 34th St. just south of US-441) to carpool. Difficulty: 2.

Saturday, September 17, SPECIAL EVENT
Fall Migration Count: Contact Mike Manetz (mmanetz@yahoo.com) if you're interested in participating in this all-day event. Difficulty: 3.

Sunday, September 18
Cedar Key by Boat (sign-up required): Join trip leader Scott Flamand and the Tidewater Tour crew on

a canopied pontoon boat ride into some of the lesser-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 for details on where and when to meet. Difficulty: 1.

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 a.m.
Levy Lake Loop: Meet field trip 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 from Gainesville on US-441. Across from Lake Wauberg, turn right onto Wacahoota Rd. (County Road 18). Go roughly half a mile and, just after the I-75 overpass, turn left on SE 11th Dr. and continue to the parking area. Difficulty: 3.

Sunday, September 25, 8:00 a.m.
Barr Hammock (CLEP*): Meet trip leader Michael Drummond at the Sunoco station at the flashing light in Micanopy on US-441 and carpool to Barr Hammock. Barr Hammock forms a land bridge 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 we'll be looking at everything – trees, wildflowers, insects, reptiles, whatever we find. Difficulty: 2.

(Continued on Page 6)

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 352-745-7228
Vice President Scott Flamand 352-665-7020
Secretary Felicia Lee 714-791-8855
Treasurer Trina Anderson 352-363-6810
Membership Karen Brown 352-213-4257
Field Trips Barbara Shea 352-514-3956
Education Emily Schwartz 352-372-0754
Birding Classes Charlene Leonard 352-226-1214
Festivals Will Sexton 727-385-8654
Conservation Bob Simons 352-372-7646
Crane Editor Debbie Segal 352-514-0596
..... Submittals: Debbie.segal@gmail.com
Advertising Karen Brown 352-213-4257
Crane Circulation Erika & Bob Simons
352-372-7646
Social Media Scott Flamand 352-665-7020
Website Trina Anderson 352-363-6810
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**



With barely a chance to catch a breath following the June Challenge, local birders quickly shifted into fall migration mode. Debbie Segal and Bob Knight noted our first returning Louisiana Water-thrush July 3rd while paddling the Santa Fe River. Caroline Poli found another the following day at Prairie Creek Preserve. By mid-July, Black-and-white Warblers

had been reported from many locations. Andy Kratter checked off our first Prairie Warbler on July 22nd along the Rail Trail; the following day Terry Halback spotted an early American Redstart on her property near Orange Lake, and our first Yellow Warbler was discovered July 29th by John Hintermister along La Chua trail. Kentucky Warblers are among our most sought-after early migrants, and our first two showed themselves on the 11th of August. One was seen off the boardwalk at La Chua trail and the other along San Felasco Hammock Moonshine Creek Trail.

We had a flurry of stimulating shorebird activity in late July at three new retention ponds adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods off of Clark Butler Boulevard. After a tip from Jonathan Colburn, Rex Rowan checked these ponds on July 25th and was astonished to find, in addition to a huge number of wading birds, 11 species of shorebirds! Goodies included a locally rare Western Sandpiper and a Stilt Sandpiper in gorgeous breeding plumage. Debbie Segal discovered another trove of shorebirds along La Chua Trail on August 7th that included two Black-bellied Plovers (our first in four years), plus Semipalmated Plovers and three species of peeps, one of which was a Western Sandpiper. As a bonus, she had five Black Terns fly over. She was joined later by John Hintermister who spotted a couple of dowitchers wing by, that, given the season, were likely Short-billed. The following day several more birders gathered at the continuing feast and added Stilt Sandpiper and a lovely American Avocet, bringing the two-day shorebird total to thirteen species!

We had an interesting mix of swallows pass through in early August. On the 3rd Caroline Poli noted our first- of-fall Cliff Swallow along La Chua trail and John Hintermister had a Bank Swallow at Hague Dairy on the 10th. Both birds were much earlier than expected. Several Tree Swallows, Purple Martins, and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow were also observed along La Chua during the first week of August.

Broad-winged Hawk was sorely missed on the June Challenge, but Gina Kent saw and heard one July 23rd at Poe Springs Park, where Howard Adams had noted one calling back in mid-May. Short-tailed Hawks were once considered rare here in Alachua County, but reports have been increasing dramatically over the last 10 years. In addition to sightings back in June by Pete Hosner at (Continued on Page 5)

AAS Birding Programs

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 – 6:30 social time, 7:00 program at Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville. ***Climate Change: Implications for North Florida.*** Chris Farrell, Audubon Florida, will give an update on climate change research and potential concerns for North Florida. He will discuss possible climate scenarios for our region and their potential effects on biodiversity.

Thursday, November 10, 2016 – 6:30 social time, 7:00 program at Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville. ***Putting Tracking Information to Work: From Tagging Birds to Conservation Action.*** Caroline Poli, University of Florida, will speak about the moment-to-moment steps that an animal makes and how those steps accumulate over time to form large scale movement patterns. Those patterns can profoundly influence the overall health of an animal, its breeding success, and its lifespan. Rapid and recent advances in miniaturization of tracking technology have enabled scientists to learn about the movements of species, ranging from elephants to dragonflies, and discover the pathways of global migrations, expansive flights, and unexpected behaviors. Tracking information undoubtedly enriches human understanding of the natural world. But how can we use it for conservation? In this talk we'll follow Atlantic Puffins in Maine, Brown Pelicans along the Atlantic coast, Masked and Red-footed Boobies in Mexico, and critically endangered Snail Kites in Florida, to find out how tracking animals can fill critical information gaps and guide conservation action.

Photograph of Alicia Johansen, Barbara Shea, and Will Sexton staffing the AAS booth at the 2015 Lubee Bat Festival.

Community Calendar

Oct. 22th—Lubee Bat Conservancy 12th 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.*

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! Please consider volunteering for a two-hour shift (10-12, 12-2, or 2-4) at the AAS booth at the Lubee Festival on Oct. 22nd. To volunteer, contact Will Sexton at wesexton@gmail.com



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 October 22nd and continues on the following Saturday mornings: 10/29, 11/5, and 11/12. Weather make-up date, if needed, will be 11/19. 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 Alachua Audubon. 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

Audubon Assembly Conservation Event of the Year October 28-29; St. Petersburg

The theme for the Assembly is **"One Gulf."** Reconnect with Florida's remarkable coastal habitats and wildlife. If you have visited Florida's Gulf Coast, then you know first-hand the importance of this remarkable ecosystem and how it is vital to the survival of many wildlife species, including nesting and migratory birds. From the remote mangrove islands teeming with life in Florida Bay to the wind-swept beaches of South Texas, the Gulf Coast plays a vital role for our birds, our citizens, and our economy.

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!*

_____>

Newsletter Shifting to Electronic Distribution!

Starting January 1st, Alachua Audubon will shift to a more economical and environmentally-friendly method of distributing *The Crane*. Roughly 1,000 newsletters are printed and mailed out bimonthly. This is our highest consistent expenditure and costs the society roughly \$600 for every issue. Added to this cost is the large volume of paper used and the labor-intensive task of folding and stamping 1,000 newsletters.

We are appealing to our membership for your support as we wean ourselves from the voluminous and expensive bimonthly newsletter mailing by signing up to receive your newsletter electronically. Your electronic newsletter will be more colorful than the black-and-white version, you may print it at home, and you can easily forward it to others. We understand that some members are unable to view the newsletter electronically and will want to continue receiving a mailed hard copy. We will accommodate you and continue sending your newsletter by U.S. mail.

But you must tell us if you want to receive the newsletter by email or snail mail by sending an email to: AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com

If you don't use email, please return the insert with your mailing address clearly written. Please send it to: Alachua Audubon Society c/o Karen Brown, Membership 3242 NW 12th Terrace Gainesville FL 32609. As always, we will continue to upload the newsletter to the Alachua Audubon website at: AlachuaAudubon.org

If we do not hear from you by December 1st, then we will assume you are retrieving the newsletter from the website, and we will not send you an electronic or hard copy newsletter. Thank you for your understanding and support as we transition to a more economical and environmentally-friendly method of sharing our birding news

Fieldtrips are planned for Ft. De Soto Park, Sawgrass Lake County Park, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, and St Pete Beach.

Keynote Speaker will be Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida Deputy Executive Director.

For more information and to register for the Alachua Assembly, go to <http://fl.audubon.org>

Florida Wildflower Symposium
Sept. 23-24, 2016
Silver Springs State Park

Want to know more about Monarch butterflies, what plants are best for landscaping, and how to help Florida's bees and butterflies? Join us at the Florida Wildflower Symposium at Silver Springs State Park in Ocala to learn about these topics and many more. The event is the only one of its kind in the state, focusing exclusively on the state's native wildflowers and their ecosystems.

Friday, Sept. 23, features a choice of field trips, such as kayaking with Adventure Outpost's Lars Andersen, a Silver River boat tour, a hike in Ocala National Forest's Big Scrub, and a tram tour that will take in Silver Springs' natural side. Participants will gather at Silver Springs Friday afternoon for presentations on timely conservation topics, including Florida's springs and black bears. A wildflower garden ribbon-cutting beside the spring run and a good old-fashioned barbecue with live entertainment will follow.

The symposium's Saturday schedule features presentations, workshops and garden walks, including:

- ◆ Keynote address by Roger Hammer, award-winning author, naturalist, botanist and photographer.
- ◆ A presentation on Monarch butterflies by botanist and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge ranger Scott Davis.
- ◆ "Florida's Ghost Orchids" with biologist and Fakahatchee Strand State Park ranger Mike Owen.
- ◆ "Transformation of a Turfgrass Lawn into a Native Landscape" presented by Stephen Turnipseed.
- ◆ Butterfly walk in the garden with Jaret Daniels of the Florida Museum of Natural History

A variety of beautiful native plants – including milkweed for Monarchs – will be available for purchase Saturday, and a selection of vendors will offer garden items, bee houses and more.

Symposium admission is \$35 for Florida Wildflower Foundation members and \$45 for nonmembers (barbecue, field trips and Saturday lunch priced separately). Cost includes admission to the park and a glass-bottom boat ride discount. For details, visit www.FlaWildflowers.org/symposium

Around the County
(Continued from Page 2)

Bivens Arm Lake, and Debbie Segal and John Hintermister at Newnans Lake, Felicia Lee reported one August 13th from La Chua trail head. Felicia's bird was seen by many observers over the following few days, ranging from La Chua to Sweetwater Wetlands Park.

By the time you receive this issue of the Crane newsletter, fall migration will be reaching its mid-point. Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, and Golden-winged Warblers will all be passing through, along with one of the prizes of fall—Cerulean Warbler. And hopefully we will continue our Alder Flycatcher streak. First discovered on the prairie basin in September 2012, Alders have since been annual fall visitors. Best places to check include Sparrow Alley, Cone's Dike Trail, and Levy Lake Loop. While we're at it, let's find a Willow Flycatcher, too!

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through August 17th, 2016

Eliminate Paper Products at
your Next Gathering with AAS'
Party Box

Everyone knows the 3 Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle. Alachua Audubon can help you reduce waste paper by reusing! We have created a "party box" – two Tupperware bins with hard plastic plates and platters, glass drinking glasses, and silverware. It is perfect for your picnic or patio party. Using the party box instead of paper products is environmentally sound.

If you would like to borrow the party box for your next event (should be enough for a casual party for up to 16 people), please contact Emily Schwartz at emilysgfl@gmail.com to reserve the boxes. They are free of charge but must be returned clean.

Field Trips *(continued from page 1)*

Saturday, October 1, 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, forest, and Cellon Creek bottomlands. Migration of warblers, thrushes, cuckoos, tanagers, and buntings should be starting to peak. Difficulty: 3.

Sunday, October 2, 8:00 a.m.

Powers Park and Palm Point: We'll meet trip leader Barbara Shea at Powers Park to look for migrant warblers, tanagers, and thrushes in the trees along the boat channel and to scan the lake from the fishing pier. Then we'll travel to nearby Palm Point to search for more migrants in the live oaks and cypresses. Difficulty: 1.

Saturday, October 8, 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 the Tag Agency 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. Bring water and bug repellent. Lunch is at Cap's on the Inland Waterway. Difficulty: 2.

Sunday, October 9, 8:00 a.m.

San Felasco Hammock (Millhopper Rd.): Meet trip leader Steve Hofstetter in the parking lot of the Hunter's Crossing Publix on Millhopper Rd. and NW 43rd St. for carpooling to the park. 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.

Saturday, October 15, 8:00 a.m.

Bolen Bluff Trail: Meet trip leader Debbie Segal at

the Bolen Bluff trailhead on US-441. Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations, especially during fall songbird migration, which is peaking now. This can be the best walk of the season for warblers and thrushes. Entry fee \$2 per vehicle. Difficulty: 3.

Sunday, October 16, 8:00 a.m.

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens: Join Trina Anderson in the parking lot of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens for a stroll through a variety of neatly-tended gardens, hardwood hammocks, sinkholes, and a man-made watercourse. This under-birded park can be excellent for migrating warblers. Participants will be admitted to the park for half price (\$4), but MUST be on time to get the group rate. Difficulty: 2.

Sunday, October 23, 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 and coastal hammocks. 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.

Saturday, October 29, 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: 1.

Saturday, November 5, 8:00 a.m.

Hague Dairy: Meet Howard Adams at the Tag Agency on NW 34th St. just south of US-441 to caravan to one of the county's best spots for sparrows, blackbirds, and raptors. Difficulty: 2.

**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.*

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

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. 2016

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!

Join the Audubon Society on 3 levels
(National, Florida, and Alachua) for \$35

- or -

Join the Alachua Audubon chapter for only \$10

Send completed application and check to:
**Karen Brown, 3242 NW 12th Terrace, Gainesville,
Florida 32609**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate level of membership:

Introductory \$20.00 Basic \$35.00

Make check payable to **National Audubon**

-or-

Alachua Audubon Chapter only - \$10.00

Make check payable to **Alachua Audubon**

Check if this is a renewal

Membership Form Also Available at: AlachuaAudubon.org

Questions? Contact Karen at 352-213-4257 or
AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com