

# The Crane

Volume 58 Number 4 March-April 2017

## March and April Field Trips

**Saturday, March 4, 8:00 a.m.**

**Morningside Nature Center (CLEP\*):** Meet Geoff Parks for a visit to one of Gainesville's premier nature parks featuring over six miles of trails through sandhills, flatwoods, cypress domes, and beautifully restored native longleaf pines and wiregrass habitat. Morningside also features a working 19th-century farm, a bird blind, and a diverse array of wildlife that thrives in this unique environment. Difficulty: 2.

**Saturday, March 18, 8:00 a.m.**

**Bolen Bluff Trail:** Meet trip leader Bob Carroll at the Bolen Bluff trailhead on US-441. Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations. Join us for a walk through these oak uplands on the southern rim of Paynes Prairie. Resident birds should be singing on territory, and winter feeding flocks should be moving through the trees, foraging among the new green leaves. Entry fee \$2 per vehicle. Difficulty: 3.

**Saturday, March 25, 7:30 a.m.**

**Mill Creek Preserve:** In 2002 the Alachua County Forever program made its first conservation land purchase, the Mill Creek Preserve, 1190 acres of deep hardwood forest containing the southernmost stand of beech trees in North America. Meet trip leader Deena Mickelson at the parking lot of Hitchcock's Grocery Store on US-441 in Alachua and carpool to the Preserve. Difficulty: 3.

**Saturday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.**

**San Felasco Hammock (Millhopper Rd.):** Meet trip leader Adam Kent in the parking lot of the Hunter's Crossing Publix on Millhopper Rd. and NW 43rd St. for carpooling to the park. Sandhills, meandering streams, forested slopes, and sinkholes set the stage for the diversity of birds we hope to find, such as Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Hooded Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Difficulty: 2.

**Saturday, April 8: 7:00 a.m.**

**Ocala National Forest:** Meet trip leader Rex Rowan in the Publix parking lot at the corner of Williston Rd. and SW 34th St. Come and admire the longleaf sandhills and scrub in this marvelous 383,000-acre remnant of the original Florida, while we search for Florida Scrub-Jay, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and other specialty birds. Difficulty: 2.

**Sunday, April 9, 8:00 a.m.**

**Watermelon Pond Wildlife and Environmental Area:** Join trip leader Barbara Shea and FWC land manager Norberto Fernandez for a ramble over the grassy fields and marshy potholes of southwest Alachua County's interesting "upland wetland." Meet at the parking corral on SW 250th St. two miles south of SW 46th Ave. (detailed directions on AAS web site). Difficulty: 3.

*Field Trips Continued on Page 9*

**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 .....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  
Website .....Trina Anderson 352-363-6810  
Crane Circulation ..... Erika and Bob Simons  
AAS Website.....www.alachuaudubon.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 the editor and fulfills stated objectives and goals of Alachua Audubon Society. 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  
May-June Crane:  
Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>**



Typically by the end of December most of our rare and unusual wintering birds have already been detected, but in the early new year we saw a small burst of interesting late arrivals and the return of a few birds that we thought had come and gone. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher north of Newberry that

seemed to disappear after one day in mid-December, was relocated in the same spot on January 13<sup>th</sup> by Barbara Stewman. One or two stray Rusty Blackbirds were noted around Payne's Prairie in December, but the reliable flock at Magnolia Parke seemed to be absent until they finally appeared in force around mid-January. The Common Goldeneye found by John Martin on the Christmas Count was another bird thought to have forsaken us, but one (or the same) was turned up by Andy Kratter January 20<sup>th</sup> at the new Depot Park pond. Adam Zions had two Black-throated Green Warblers over-wintering in his yard last year. This winter he saw no sign of them until February 12<sup>th</sup> when he spotted one in a mixed feeding flock. For at least the past ten years we've had multiple Ash-throated Flycatchers on the basin. This winter there seems to have been only one individual along Cone's dike which was seen sporadically at best, so it was good news when Caroline Poli reported one February 10<sup>th</sup> along Sparrow Alley. I was pleasantly surprised January 17<sup>th</sup> to find a Dark-eyed Junco visiting the feeding station in my yard (photograph below taken by Mike Manetz). According to eBird records it may have been the only Junco reported in the Florida peninsula this winter. The bird was still present at the time of this writing. Last winter we had break-out numbers of normally very rare Nashville Warblers in the county. This winter we "only" had two: one in the yard of Gina and Adam Kent, and the other found By Ben Ewing January 20<sup>th</sup> in the Medicinal Gardens at Lake Alice. In previous years even two would have been astonishing!

Sandhill Cranes wintered in numbers greater than usual this year, and they made quite a show on Payne's Prairie basin. Estimates averaged about seven



thousand birds, with some reports ranging as high as ten thousand. And while the platform at La Chua trail was the most popular birding spot in the county, the near-by transmission line off Sparrow Alley saw its share of excitement. The initial (Continued on Page 6)

K K  
I O  
D R  
Z' N  
E  
R

Drawing by  
Andre Frattino



### Kids' Urban Birding Event

Let's Go Downtown April 8th for family birding! Meet Adam Kent at the Thomas Center in downtown Gainesville (302 NW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue) on Saturday, April 8th at 9:00 a.m. We will walk the Thomas Center grounds, city streets, and Duckpond area looking for city birds and animals. Binoculars will be available for use. Please register for this event at [aububonyouthbirding@gmail.com](mailto:aububonyouthbirding@gmail.com).



Photograph of Jillian Provost and Bailey Watkins listening to Adam Kent call out birds at the count-up during the kids' Christmas Bird Count. Photo taken by Barbara Brock.

### Kids' Christmas Bird Count a Success!

On January 21<sup>st</sup> four students from Oak View Middle School, including myself, took part in the annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids with the Alachua Audubon Society. We went out to La Chua Trail, got a checklist of birds, and then counted each bird that we saw that day. We learned how to do the Dot-Counting Method to take up less space on the page. This involves making a square out of dots and connecting them with lines, so that each square represents ten birds. During the count, we saw 42 different species. Some of these were Blue-Winged Teal, American White Pelican, Anhinga, Bald Eagle, and Gray Catbird. In total, we saw over 750 individual birds.

After the count, we had a pizza lunch and met up with the elementary school group, who had counted birds at Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Together, we tallied the total number of birds seen that day. This was a great learning experience for bird classification. We were challenged to use the field guide by ourselves to figure out what type of bird we had seen. In addition, we learned some interesting facts about individual species. For example, male Sandhill Cranes have a red mark on their head, and male Red-Wing Blackbirds look very similar to the females when they molt. One of the most exciting parts of the experience was spotting a Dickcissel, which is not commonly seen at La Chua. Another interesting sighting was the Northern Flicker. This bird is very unique with yellow under its tail, spots on its body, and a black heart shape on its chest. While there are many birds at La Chua Trail, we also saw alligators, wild horses, a snake, and a tiny turtle. If this sounds interesting, a great way to be involved is to sign up for the Friends of Paynes Prairie learning sessions about birds. Thank you to the Alachua Audubon Society for giving us the fun opportunity to learn about birding.

By Jillian Provost (8th Grade)

## Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner Celebration and Welcome New Board Members

Join us on Wednesday, April 12th at 6:30 pm for Alachua Audubon's annual pot luck dinner celebration and help us welcome our newest AAS Board Members. This event will be held at Bubba and Ingrid Scales' house at 3002 SW 1st Way, Gainesville, located in the Colclough Hills neighborhood between south Main Street and Williston Road. (Look for the AAS signs!) Bring some food to share and a drink of choice, and enjoy visiting with Alachua Audubon members and the Board of Directors. This will be a fun gathering and an opportunity to share our more recent spring migration observations!

The Alachua Audubon Society is a volunteer organization. The Board of Directors is comprised of four officers and 15 members. Officers of Alachua Audubon are: (incoming) President: Debbie Segal, Vice President: Scott Flamand, Secretary: Felicia Lee, and Treasurer: Trina Anderson. Returning board members are Emily Schwartz, Bob Simons, Anne Casella, Mike Manetz, Barbara Shea, Sharon Kuchinski, Karen Brown, Will Sexton, Katie Sieving, Charlene Leonard, and Adam Zions. We would like to welcome our newest board members Alan Shapiro and Michael Brock.. *Please join us on April 12th as we celebrate Alachua Audubon and welcome our newest board members.*

## New Youth Event at Depot Park

Saturday, February 18th, Alachua Audubon sponsored a youth birding event at the new Depot Park. If you have not visited this park please do so! It's so well run and a perfect place for a picnic.

Audubon volunteers Bob Carroll, John Sivinski, Brenda Springfield, and I strolled with 12 adults and 13 children along the nature trail looking for birds and other park features. We were excited to see a beautiful American Kestrel, Killdeer mating, two Osprey in a nest, Ring-necked Ducks, and many migrating Sandhill Cranes along with a variety of other birds. Children were delighted to race to the excellent playground after the walk.

By Emily Schwartz

## Wildlife Viewing Platform Coming to Tuscowilla Preserve

An exciting improvement is coming to Tuscowilla Preserve near Micanopy thanks to a partnership between Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) and Alachua Audubon Society. ACT, managers of Tuscowilla Preserve, has designed a wildlife viewing platform for the north side of the prairie. The viewing platform will be similar in size and height to the towers at La Chua Trail and Bolens Bluff Trail. ACT will locate the raised platform so it provides the best vantage point for open areas on the prairie where ducks and water birds congregate.

Alachua Audubon has agreed to provide \$6,500 in funding for the new platform, which is half of the estimated cost. ACT is optimistic it will receive the remaining funds from other supporters. Construction of the tower is expected to begin in March and be completed in April.

Alachua Audubon is proud to partner with ACT on this exciting project and we appreciate ACT's efficiency and commitment in making this project happen.

By Debbie Segal

## Thank You Outgoing AAS Board Members

Alachua Audubon sincerely thanks Ted Goodman, Steve Goodman, John Sivinski, and especially long-time board member and treasurer, Dotty Robbins for their invaluable service on the AAS board. Alachua Audubon has benefitted tremendously from their involvement, dedication, and commitment. We also extend a big thank you to Anne Casella for serving as AAS's president for three years. Anne will remain on the board of AAS, but is turning the reins of presidency over to Debbie Segal.

## Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Festival *Volunteers Needed*

The Alachua Audubon Society will sponsor an informational table at the upcoming Kanapaha Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Festival on March 18th and 19th. ***We need helpers at our table to share with others our excitement for birds, conservation, and natural areas.*** You don't have to be a birding expert, just friendly and enthusiastic. Please sign up for a morning or afternoon shift for one of the festival days by contacting Will Sexton at 727-385-8654 or [wesexton@gmail.com](mailto:wesexton@gmail.com). And please let Will know if you can't do those dates but want to be called on for other volunteer opportunities.

## Birding Class Offered

Would you like to learn more about bird identification? Santa Fe College's Community Education Program, in collaboration with the Alachua Audubon Society, is offering a 4-week course in Field Bird Identification. Classes are on Saturday mornings, starting on April 1st and running through May 6th, (no class April 15th) and will last for two hours. The final class will be a longer trip to Cedar Key. Each class is led by a local birding expert.

The course costs \$49 and generates revenue for AAS. Registration is through SFC. For more information and registration, go online to Santa Fe College Community Education or call 352-395-5193. **Registration for the class begins in mid-March.** Class is limited to 12 students, so register early as this class fills quickly. Hope to see you in class.

By Charlene Leonard, Class Coordinator

## What's the Talk about Developing Palm Point?

You may have read John Moran's January 29th Gainesville Sun op ed where he implored the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs to not spend \$1 million to develop Palm Point. John noted that the City planned to build a pier, more parking, bathroom facilities, and other "upgrades" at Palm Point.

We, the members of the Alachua Audubon Conservation Committee, read John's op ed and we shared his concern that Palm Point is an outstanding small, quiet park in its current state and it does not need any upgrades, especially not \$1 million in concrete and structures.

So Alachua Audubon met with the City to find out more details about their development plans at Palm Point. We were told that the \$1 million budget entry was a holdover from when the City had hoped to purchase the old fish camp. However, since the Gainesville Area Rowing Club purchased that parcel, the City was not planning to do any development at this time at Palm Point. In fact, the City assured us they have no development plans in the works for Palm Point and they would let Alachua Audubon be stakeholders during the formation of any future development plans. (We asked the City to consider establishing some hiking trails on the forested tract on the west side of the road directly across from Palm Point.)

We thought the issue of developing Palm Point was put to rest but the City submitted presentation material for an Alachua County Commission meeting, and in those materials, were the plans for \$1 million in upgrades at Palm Point. Almost a dozen people spoke out against the Palm Point improvements at the February 14th County Commission meeting, and the County Commissioners agreed with the public's position.

So the plans to develop Palm Point seem as clear as the water in Newnan's Lake. The City tells us they have no plans to develop Palm Point, but they submit a budget request for \$1 million to the County Commissioners. We will continue to follow this issue.

## Around the County (Continued from Page 2)

attraction was the continuing presence of at least two Vermilion Flycatchers, but the appearance in January of a Peregrine Falcon and an intriguingly pale “Krider's-type” Red-tailed Hawk added some spice. It became even spicier on January 28<sup>th</sup> when Lloyd Davis discovered and photographed a Grayheaded Swamphen in that location! Formerly lumped as “Purple Swamphen”, this species made its first appearance in the county last winter when two birds took up a brief residence at Sweetwater Wetlands and then disappeared. With so much inaccessible wetland habitat on the basin in which they might remain unseen, this could easily have been one of those same birds.

Renowned hummingbird bander Fred Bassett made a swing through our area January 14<sup>th</sup> and banded four Rufous Hummingbirds, including one at Greg Hart's house, another in the yard of Lee Palmore, and two at Ron Robinson's house. One of Ron's birds was a third-year return. One Ruby-throated was in Dot Fagan's yard, and another in the yard of Tina and Art Greenburg. The rarest was a Black-chinned at the home of Pam and Gene Stine. Attracting wintering hummers is a labor of love, and it's an honor and privilege to have one of these little gems choose your yard, so congratulations to the above homeowners!

On January 13<sup>th</sup> Andy Kratter spotted our first returning spring migrant, a Purple Martin. By the time this issue of the Crane reaches your inbox or mailbox, newly arriving Northern Parulas will be cheerily singing in our yards and woodlands. The fleeting songs of many winter residents such as Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Whip-poor-will, and Black-and-white Warbler may also be heard as they tune their vocal chords in the days leading to their departure. By early March someone will have reported our first Louisiana Waterthrush; after that will follow a steady stream of returning migrants and breeding birds, all ready to start anew.

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Speakers Corner

**Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 p.m. at Newberry Branch Library (110 South Seaboard Drive, Newberry). *Intro to Birding*. Who are these people walking around with binoculars having so much fun? And how do you get into the world of “Birding” anyway? Scott Flamand, Alachua Audubon Vice-President, will share his delight and his expertise on this fascinating hobby. Come. You won't “egret” it!

**Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** at Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville) Social at 6:30, program at 7:00 p.m. *Wildlife in Cuba*. Join Audubon travelers Lloyd David and Pat Bartlett as they share their adventures of recent travel to Cuba. They will share their experiences of seeing the country, meeting people and viewing bird life. But not just bird life. We have been promised to hear about dragonflies, snakes, lizards, butterflies, and tiger beetles too. This sounds really wild!

## Family Birding at Paynes Prairie

Join Alachua Audubon volunteers for family birding events at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park on the first Saturday of each month, November through April. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Lake Wauberg next to the boat ramp, and on April 1<sup>st</sup> we will meet at the La Chua Trail parking lot. These field trips are sponsored by Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Call 352-466-4100 for more information and register at [www.prairiefriends.org](http://www.prairiefriends.org). Families and kids are encouraged to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

# Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed · Feeders · Nesting Boxes · Nature Gifts · Optics

4215 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Blvd Gainesville

352-381-1997

[gainesville.wbu.com](http://gainesville.wbu.com)

[gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com](mailto:gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com)

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



*Eat well, live well...*

Tioga • Micanopy • Ocala • [www.BlueHighwayPizza.com](http://www.BlueHighwayPizza.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](http://www.conservationburialinc.org)

352-317-7307

## The Great Frame Up

*Where Picture Framing is an Art™*

4144 N.W. 16th Blvd.  
Gainesville, FL 32605

[gainesville@thegreatframeup.com](mailto:gainesville@thegreatframeup.com)  
(352) 373-5400



[www.facebook.com/tgfugainesville](http://www.facebook.com/tgfugainesville)



[www.pinterest.com/thegreatframeup](http://www.pinterest.com/thegreatframeup)



[twitter.com/tgfuframing](https://twitter.com/tgfuframing) @TGFUGainesville



[gainesville.thegreatframeup.com](http://gainesville.thegreatframeup.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](http://Tidewatertours.com)



KESTREL  
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

Native plant restoration  
Biological Monitoring

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

Erick D. Smith

[erick@kestreleco.com](mailto:erick@kestreleco.com)

(352) 380-0648

Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg

[michael@kestreleco.com](mailto:michael@kestreleco.com)

(352) 339-0701

[www.kestreleco.com](http://www.kestreleco.com)

Alachua Audubon welcomes our newest  
advertiser, The Great Frame Up.  
Please support our advertisers!

Wild Birds Unlimited,

[gainesville.wbu.com/](http://gainesville.wbu.com/)

Blue Highway Pizza,

[www.BlueHighwayPizza.com](http://www.BlueHighwayPizza.com)

The Great Frame Up,

(Just a few doors from Wild Birds Unlimited)

[Gainesville.thegreatframeup.com](http://Gainesville.thegreatframeup.com)

Kestrel Ecological Services,

[www.kestreleco.com](http://www.kestreleco.com)

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery,

[www.conservationburialinc.org](http://www.conservationburialinc.org)

Tide Water Tours,

[www.tidewatertours.com](http://www.tidewatertours.com)

## Gull and Jaeger Identification

On February 7th, Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet (Volusia County) gave an outstanding presentation on the identification of gulls and jaegers. His many photographs and detailed explanations helped to clarify the confusion inherent in identifying birds with multiple plumage cycles.

And then on February 11th, Michael met about 30 Alachua Audubon field trip members at the Frank Rendon Park in Daytona Beach Shores to practice our new gull identification skills. Literally thousands of wintering gulls congregate on this section of the beach during the late afternoon. We were able to view and study the various plumage cycles of Laughing, Ring-billed, Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls. Thanks to Dottie Robbins for organizing such an informative presentation and field trip program. Photographs below taken by Will Sexton during the gull field trip.



## Keeping Your Yard Bird Friendly

As spring fast approaches many of us plan to enhance our gardens, add to our landscaping, and beautify our yards. We want to encourage all of you who haven't included wildlife in your landscaping plan to start this spring! Here are a few things to keep in mind as you prepare to get your hands dirty.

**Planting native plants** offers so many benefits. It provides natural cover, nesting areas, and food for birds and wildlife. It decreases pesticide, herbicide, and water use which makes maintaining your bird-friendly yard easier. Remember to plant your yard in levels—open areas with ground cover, then low bushes, then short trees like native dogwood, and then larger trees. A greater variety of plants promotes a greater diversity of wildlife. The Native Plant Sale, held twice a year at Morningside Nature Center, is a great place to get ideas and plants for your spring and fall projects. The Florida Museum of Natural History also sells native plants, especially those plant types that attract butterflies.

**Be aware of bird activity** while trimming, pruning and mowing those overgrown areas since nest building may already be underway. Rabbits could be nesting on the ground and birds at different levels in the overgrown foliage. Always check before you cut!

**Check your nest boxes** and remove the old spiderwebs and debris. Some of our cavity nesters include the woodpeckers, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Tufted Titmouse, Purple Martin, Carolina Chickadee, Southeastern American Kestrel, and Eastern Screech-Owl.

**Keep your chimneys open** and clean for returning Chimney Swifts. Swifts return from Chile in March to scout out the site of last year's nest. If that is not available they will look nearby. Since dead hollow trees are rare these days, chimneys have become the substitute. They are BIG mosquito eaters and do no harm to your chimney.

Thank you for caring about the wildlife that depend on neighborhood yards like yours and including them in your landscape.

Florida Wildlife Care has more information about wildlife including what to do with injured or orphaned wildlife. [www.floridawildlifecare.org](http://www.floridawildlifecare.org)

By Leslie Straub  
Florida Wildlife Care

## Fieldtrips (continued from Page 1)

**Saturday, April 15, 8:00 a.m.**

**La Chua Trail:** Meet trip leader Felicia Lee at the trailhead of La Chua Trail on Camp Ranch Rd. La Chua is one of the area's best birding hotspots and it supports a tremendous bird population including wading birds, waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and others. Resident species should be in the midst of nesting activities, and we may see a few migrants passing through. Entry fee \$4 per vehicle. Difficulty: 3.

**Saturday, April 22, 6:30 a.m.**

**Cedar Key:** Meet trip leader Rex Rowan in the Target parking lot on Archer Rd. at I-75. The emphasis on this trip will be migrants – mainly warblers and shorebirds. We'll also look for some uncommon and/or coastal-nesting species: Gray Kingbird, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Short-tailed Hawk. Some people stick around after the trip for lunch. Difficulty: 1.

**Sunday, April 23, 8:00 a.m.**

**Kanapaha Botanical Gardens:** Meet trip leader Mike Manetz in the parking lot at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens for a stroll through a beautiful 62-acre park marked by gorgeous gardens (including butterfly and hummingbird gardens), sinkholes, a man-made watercourse, and hardwood hammocks that host a wide variety of bird life. What can be more beautiful than springtime in the Gardens? Participants will be admitted to the park for half price (\$4), but **MUST** be on time to get the group rate. Difficulty: 2.

**Saturday, April 29, 8:00 a.m.**

**Sweetwater Wetlands Park:** Join trip leader Trina Anderson for a birding stroll around Gainesville's newest birding hotspot, a site that has already logged over 220 bird species! We'll search for wetland birds like Least Bitterns, Purple Gallinules, Limpkins, and migrating Bobolinks in the treatment wetlands, and forest-dwelling birds in the cypress preserve. Directions: From the intersection of US-441 and Williston Rd., go east on Williston Rd. roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. The entrance will be on the right. Entry fee \$5 per vehicle. Bring sunscreen and water. Difficulty: 3.

**Sunday, April 30, 8:00 a.m.**

**Powers Park and Palm Point:** Meet trip leader Barbara Shea at Powers Park to look for migrants 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 like American Redstart, Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager. Difficulty: 1.

**Saturday, May 6, 6:00 a.m.**

**Huguenot Park/Ft. George Island:** Meet trip leader Rex Rowan at the Tag Agency on NW 34th St. just south of US-441 to carpool to Jacksonville's Huguenot Park, where we'll look for shorebirds, gulls, and terns, all in their breeding plumage, and migrant songbirds, including Painted Buntings, at Ft. George Island. Admission to Huguenot is \$5 per vehicle, \$3 (exact change only) if we get there before 8 a.m. Difficulty: 3.

**Sunday, May 7**

**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 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 for details on where and when to meet. Difficulty: 1.

 **Hog Island**  
**Audubon Camp**  
SEABIRD RESTORATION PROGRAM



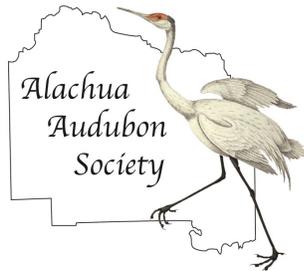
**Register Today!**

<http://hogisland.audubon.org>

843-340-8673

 Audubon

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



*The Crane*  
Mar-Apr 2017

## Join Audubon!

Join Audubon on 3 levels  
(National, Florida, and Alachua)

-or-

Join the Alachua Audubon chapter

Send completed application and check to:

Karen Brown, 3242 NW 12th Terr.  
Gainesville, FL 32609

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (for Newsletter)

### National Chapter E-18

#### Please check level of membership:

Basic \$35.00     Introductory \$20.00:

Make check payable to National Audubon

-or-

Alachua Audubon Chapter Only \$10.00

Make checks payable to Alachua Audubon Society

Check if this is a renew

Membership Form also Available at [AlachuaAudubon.org](http://AlachuaAudubon.org)

Questions? Contact Karen Brown at  
[AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com](mailto:AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com)