

The Crane

Volume 61 Number 4 May – June 2020

Message From The President

As you are probably aware, all birding programs sponsored by the Alachua Audubon Society have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. These include evening speaker programs as well as Audubon-led bird walks such as weekend field trips, Wednesday bird walks at Sweetwater Wetlands, Birds and Brew, Zen Birding, Family Birding, Santa Fe College bird classes, and Third Thursday birding. However, the natural world of birds continues around us with no hint of a global pandemic.

One local birding program that has continued through COVID-19 is monitoring the spring migration of Common Loons through Alachua County. Many Audubon volunteers and interns assisted Andy Kratter by (self-isolating) at one of the eight established monitoring stations and quantifying the loons that winged across our county in March and April. You can read more about the fascinating migration of Common Loons in Andy's article on page 9.

You may be wondering if the (now famous) June Challenge will occur this year. We anticipate kicking off the event on June 1st with a (cautious) field trip to Longleaf Flatwoods. If our social activities remain significantly curtailed, then the Challenge will likely be a more individual endeavor, lacking group trips and encouraging more solitary outings. See Rex Rowan's article on page 3 and check the AAS website and Facebook page for updates about this and other events.

Spring breeders are returning from their wintering grounds and each week I hear new and welcoming bird songs – Northern Parulas, Great Crested Flycatchers, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Summer Tanagers, Chuck-will's-widows, and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Migrants are moving through our woods and yards on their marathon journey northward. Lucky for us, birds and their melodic bird songs surround us and we can

safely continue our fascination and admiration of birds while adhering to social distancing.

Many of us are connecting or reconnecting with our yards – watching and listening to birds, enhancing bird habitat around our houses, and perhaps even expanding feeding stations and constructing water features. While state parks and some local preserves have closed other natural areas remain open, allowing us to safely enjoy nature and birds while distancing ourselves from others. Sweetwater Wetlands Parks is still open however it is often crowded during weekends and peak hours. Other less frequented greenways can provide a retreat to nature, with a plethora of birds but without many people. Areas worth exploring are Barr Hammock (Levy Loop Trail near Wacahoota Road and Ledwith Prairie Trail west of Micanopy), Tuscawilla Prairie, Santa Fe River Preserve, Watermelon Pond, Palm Point, Little Orange Creek Preserve, Bivens Arm Nature Park, Clear Lake Preserve, and Loblolly Woods Nature Preserve. During this unsettling health crisis, I hope you are finding peace and strength with the sights and sounds of nature.

Debbie Segal

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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.

Submissions to *The Crane* are welcomed. Deadline for the July-August issue: June 15th

Content of *The Crane* fulfills the stated objectives and goals of the Alachua Audubon Society. Annual subscription to *The Crane* is included in National Audubon and/or Alachua Audubon membership. Please see the back page for more information.

Additional advertisers are welcome. Please contact the editor for more information at karenpbrown1953@gmail.com

**Around
The County...
By Mike Manetz**

The Corona Virus put many birders in the ironic situation of having lots of extra time to go birding and an ever-decreasing number of places in which to do so! All state parks and preserves, the Hague Dairy, and many other hot-spots were closed by the beginning of April. A few city parks like Sweetwater

Wetlands Park (SWP), Palm Point, and Gum Root Park remained open and provided relief for many. Some birders opted for locations more remote and less visited like Watermelon Pond and Levy Lake, while others became better acquainted with the birds in their yards. Of the approximately eighty Alachua County lists submitted to eBird April 11th, half were from private residences. As we shall see, the virus didn't stop spring migration, but first a few late winter birds deserve mention.

A pair of Lark Sparrows were found by Adam Kent and Craig Faulhaber March 15th at Watermelon Pond, and two additional

Lincoln's Sparrows were noted late in the season. Adam Zions found one March 7th at Chapmans Pond, and Adam and Gina Kent, with Drew Fulton, reported another March 21st along Cones Dike. An "Audubon's" Warbler, which is the western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler and quite rare here, was seen and photographed by Tedd Greenwald and Mary Ellen Flowers



Audubon's Warbler. Photo by Tedd Greenwald.

March 30th in their High Springs yard. Carol Wooley had an Orchard Oriole in her yard from February 21st through mid-March. They are considered accidental here in winter, but with our warming climate they may be yet another species on the slippery slope toward the "rare but annual in winter" category. Recall that Ron Robinson had one wintering in his yard last year, and winter sightings have generally been on the increase elsewhere in the state.

It's always reassuring to see and hear spring migration unfold as birds arrive or pass through in a fairly predictable way. But there are always minor variations, and this spring brought us several species that are usually very uncommon for the season. Barbara Shea and Bill Pirzer had an early Veery March 25th at Chapmans Pond. Two Blue-winged

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The 17th Annual June Challenge

Will we ever be out of lockdown? More particularly, will we still be in lockdown by June 1st? As the newsletter goes to press we don't yet know, but we hope not; and because Alachua Audubon is ever hopeful, and always looks on the bright side, we're going to make plans to hold our annual summertime birding competition, The June Challenge – or as Howard Adams calls it, June Madness – as if it were any other year.

What is The June Challenge? Becky Enneis originated the Challenge in 2004 – this will be our 17th – because so much of the year seemed full of birding activities, “but there was nothing in summer. Being relatively new to birding, I wondered what was out there – and why didn't anyone want to see it? I didn't want to wait till fall to go out birding again, so I started thinking of birding activities to fill the summer void. I nixed June Bird Count because it was too similar to the Christmas Bird Count and would only last one day. I ended up with The June Challenge.”

What Becky dreamed up was a contest, a sort of Big Month that would last from June 1st to June 30th. Within that period of time, contestants would try to find as many bird species as possible within the boundaries of Alachua County. The ultimate purpose was to get us outside with binoculars at a time of year when we often cower indoors (we've had enough of *that* this spring!), but the means to that end was to harness our competitive instinct. Can we see more than anyone else? More than our birding buddies? More, at least, than we did last year?

I'll be leading a field trip on Monday, June 1st, to get the Challenge underway. We'll meet at 6:15 a.m. in the parking corral at Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve (on County Road 325, 2.3 miles south of Hawthorne Road) to look for Common Nighthawks, Bachman's Sparrows, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Afterward we'll visit Newnans Lake and Sweetwater Wetlands Park, and you can expect to head home around lunchtime with 50-60 species on your list.

If you're interested in joining us, here are the rules: (1) Only birds seen in Alachua County during June may be counted. (2) Heard birds do not count; you've got to SEE those Chuck-will's-widows and Eastern Screech-Owls. So don't trust eBird with your June Challenge list, since it lists heard birds the same as seen ones. (3) You are free to put Muscovy Ducks and retention-pond Mallards on your list, but no other domestic birds. (4) Email your list to me by midnight on Tuesday, June 30th. Assuming the social-distancing order has expired by that time, we'll have a party within a day or two afterward to hand out prizes and have a good time.

It's that simple. Now here are a few tips: Do as much birding as possible during the first few days of the month. You're more likely to see lingering spring migrants that way. Purple Martins, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and Orchard Orioles may complete their nesting and leave before the month's end, so get them early too. But don't neglect the last few days of the month either, because they've produced early fall-migrant Louisiana Waterthrushes, Black-and-white Warblers, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Make several visits to Newnans Lake and other large bodies of water to scan for gulls, terns, and pelicans, which may come and go on a daily basis. Go to Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve for Bachman's Sparrows; San Felasco Hammock for Hooded Warblers; and Sweetwater Wetlands Park for Least Bitterns, Limpkins, and Purple Gallinules. There are over 100 species possible here in June (the record is 129). The first and last few hours of daylight are best. Birds tend to sing early in the morning.

News and updates will be posted to the Alachua Audubon Society's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/. Please send me news of your good sightings and, if you take pictures, send those too. Email me at rexrowan@gmail.com or leave a message at 352-371-9296. Or put it on your own Facebook page and share the post with the [Alachua Audubon Facebook](#) page.

Good luck to all of you who decide to join us! Again, let me know when you see an unexpected bird so I can pass the word. Don't keep it a secret – the Challenge is a friendly competition, based on our shared enthusiasm for birding rather than a desire to come in first.

By Rex Rowan

Winners of the John Hintermister High School Scholarship

The Alachua Audubon Society is pleased to award the 2020 John Hintermister High School Scholarship to the following four applicants:

- Bryanna Michel of Gainesville is a senior at Buchholz High School
- Kesed Haglund of Newberry is a senior at Newberry High School
- Laura Lancaster of Archer is a senior at Newberry High School
- Santiago Navedo of Newberry is a senior at Newberry High School

Alachua Audubon wishes these students the best of luck with their future endeavors. We hope that our small contribution will encourage their commitment to the conservation of nature. Guidelines for the 2021 Alachua Audubon John Hintermister High School Scholarship will be published at the beginning of the next school year in *The Crane* newsletter and on the AlachuaAudubon.org website.

AAS would like to thank Trina Anderson, Scott Flamand and Charlene Pringle for administering the scholarship program and reviewing the applications.

Congratulations, students!

GREBE Garden Planted

All 150+ plants are in the ground at the UF GREBE (Gators Ready for Exceptional Birding Experiences) Audubon Campus Chapter “Garden for Birds” located just west of Newins-Ziegler Hall on the UF Campus. The garden features 24 species of native plants including coreopsis, America beauty-berry, Fakahatchee grass, and more! Did you know there is also an eBird hotspot for the garden? I have recorded over 40 bird species at the location and would love for you to add your sightings to the checklists!

We plan to have informational signs, bird feeders, and educational materials installed in the garden by Fall 2020. We hope this garden will be a valuable resource for students and citizens to learn how easy it is to establish a native plant garden of their own.

By Jacob Ewert,
President, UF GREBE Audubon Campus Chapter

College Student?

Check out the GREBES—the University of Florida Audubon Campus Chapter focused on teaching college students about the importance and beauty of the avian world. UF and Santa Fe students are eligible to join. Find them on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/ufGREBE/



Chimney Swifts Are Here!

Chimney Swifts were recently reported circling around the large chimney at J.J. Finley Elementary School and a few of us met up there (keeping a minimum of 6’ apart) to watch them chaotically careening around and chirping wildly. What were they communicating? A good place they’d been to eat? Calling out their spot in the communal chimney? Or was it to avoid running into one another? After about 10 minutes, they slowly began to form a more circular flight pattern and then finally started dropping down into the chimney. Within about five minutes, an estimated 200 swifts were down for the night. It was a marvelous sight to see! There is plenty of space around the schoolyard to spread out and keep a safe distance from others, so this might be a nice way to spend an evening between dusk and nightfall. As of April 22nd, they appeared around 8 p.m. and began their descent around 8:15.



For an informative article about Chimney Swifts by Leslie Straub of Florida Wildlife Care, check out page 10 of the March–April 2018 issue of *The Crane* newsletter [here](#).

Alachua Audubon Society's Board of Directors

The Alachua Audubon Society has traditionally celebrated the onset of each new fiscal year with an annual pot luck party. Held in mid-April and open to all Audubon members, this celebratory event has been an opportunity to meet the AAS Board of Directors and to learn more about the conservation and educational programs that the AAS Board has focused on during the past year. This is also the time when we express our gratitude to outgoing board members and welcome new members to the board. Because of the Coronavirus, the April celebration was cancelled; however as a Society, our dedication to birds, conservation, and nature continues unabated.

The Alachua Audubon Society is a volunteer-based organization and the board is comprised of four officers and 14 members. AAS officers are: President—Debbie Segal, Vice President—currently unfilled, Secretary—Felicia Lee, and Treasurer—Trina Anderson. Returning board members are Eric Amundson, Michael Brock, Karen Brown, Chris Burney, Anne Casella, Christina Opett, Charlene Leonard Pringle, Emily Schwartz, Barbara Shea, Katie Sieving, Bob Simons, Jonathan Varol, and Adam Zions.

Four members will be stepping down from the AAS Board of Directors – Scott Flamand, Alan Shapiro, Cindy Boyd, and Steven Goodman – and we are sincerely grateful for their years of dedication to AAS-sponsored programs. Although they will be missed during our monthly board meetings, they have each offered to continue their volunteer outreach with AAS.

Saluting our Outgoing Board Members

Having served on the AAS board for over 20 years, **Scott Flamand** filled the role as President for four years and Vice President for 11 years. His contributions to AAS have been nothing short of extensive. While President he teamed with the Florida Defenders of the Environment to help convince the Florida government to restore the Ocklawaha River by creating an educational kit for every Audubon chapter in the state. Back when selling Christmas trees was Alachua Audubon's primary source of fund raising, Scott traveled to Virginia to pick up a load of trees and drove them back to Gainesville for the annual tree sale. Scott served as AAS's Festival Coordinator for three years. He led boating field trips at Cedar Key and assisted with the Santa Fe College birding classes. Because he is so successful at attracting birds to his yard feeders, Scott's house has been on the AAS Backyard Birding Tour twice. Scott has also served on AAS's nominations committee and the High School Scholarship committee. Scott enjoys educating about nature and has given many presentations to local groups including Beginning Birding presentations to various high schools, a Birds and Mammals of India presentation at the Millhopper Branch Library, a Beginning Birding talk at the Newberry Library, a Birding through the Seasons presentation for the Garden Club, and Wildlife of Thailand for Gainesville High School (GHS) Biology classes. Earlier this year he led the GHS Birding Club on a field trip to Sweetwater Wetlands Park. We will miss Scott's expertise and leadership during the monthly AAS board meetings but we are immensely grateful that he intends to stay active with Alachua Audubon Society.



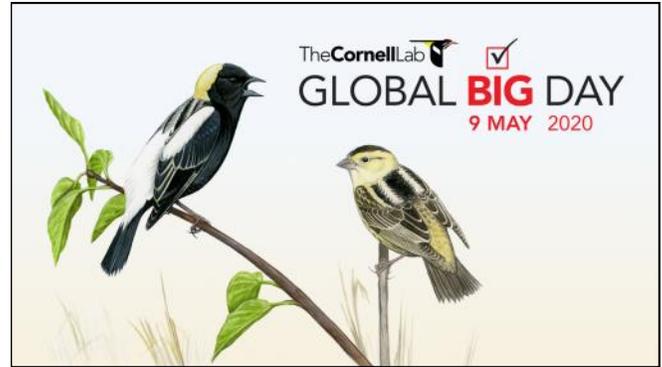
Alan Shapiro hit the ground running when he joined the AAS board in 2016. He immediately resurrected the Backyard Birding Tour and has continued running that popular educational event each year. The Backyard Birding Tour is AAS's largest and most successful annual fundraising event. Alan has served on AAS's Festival Committee and helped upgrade the AAS educational booth. He has staffed the booth at various festivals including the Native Plant Sale at Morningside, the Spring Garden Festival, Pints and Predators, Powers Park Festival, Lube Bat Festival, and others. Alan has helped Bob Simons build kestrel and bluebird nest boxes. He has led bird walks at Morningside Nature Center during the Native Plant sale and at Dudley Farm for their January First Walk on several occasions. Most recently, Alan assisted the GREBES (Gators Ready for Exceptional Birding Experiences – UF's Student Audubon Chapter) by procuring and helping to install native plants at the newly created Garden for Birds

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Global Big Day - May 9, 2020

Last May, more than 35,000 people took to fields and forests around the world, reporting **more than two-thirds of the world's bird species in a single day—Global Big Day**. Wherever you are in the world, you can be a part of birding's next world record!

On **9 May**, will you join birders from more than 175 countries and be a part of Global Big Day? You don't have to commit to birding for 24 hours—an hour or even 10 minutes of watching birds makes you part of the team.



With the spread of COVID-19, please follow recommendations from local health officials.

Global Big Day is still a fantastic opportunity to connect with birds in your backyard or local reserve. With that in mind, the Cornell Lab's Team Sapsucker will participate in Global Big Day and remain locally in the Finger Lakes of New York. The current plan is to maintain this event for folks to safely participate when possible—even if that means watching birds from home. Any changes to that status will be announced on our website [here](#).

How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free from start to finish.
- **Watch birds on 9 May:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long; even 10 minutes in your backyard counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report birds from anywhere in the world.
- **Enter what you see and hear in eBird:** You can enter your sightings via our website or download the [free eBird Mobile app](#), which makes adding what you see even easier. You can enter and submit lists while out birding, and the app tracks how far you've walked so you can focus on enjoying the birds. While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's [Merlin Bird ID](#) app for help with identification. **Please enter sightings before 13 May** to be included in our initial results announcement.
- **Watch the sightings roll in:** During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world with sightings from more than 170 countries. Stats will be updated in real-time on our Global Big Day page.

Global Big Day Pro Tips

- If you're looking for a new place to find birds, explore eBird Hotspots near you.
- Use Merlin Bird ID for help with tricky species.
- Challenge friends and set a goal for your birding—most unusual species? biggest flock? all the species in your favorite family? The possibilities are endless.
- Take photos and add them to your checklist—they might end up on the Global Big Day page!
- Make your sightings more valuable: submit complete checklists, keep counts of the birds that you see, and keep multiple checklists throughout the course of your birding—if you get in the car, end that checklist and start a new one when you get to the next location.
- Share what you're seeing on social media with #globalbigday!

Last year's Global Big Day set a new record, with 35,157 eBirders joining together on one day. On 9 May, we hope you'll be a part of birding's next world record. And no matter what you do, have fun, enjoy the birds you find, and share your sightings on eBird. Because in our world, every bird counts.

AAS College Internship Program

Alachua Audubon has been thrilled with the contributions of our college interns and they seem to be equally appreciative of the experience gained from this semester long opportunity. For more information on Alachua Audubon's college internship program, contact Dr. Katie Sieving at chucao@ufl.edu.

From Adrian Dougherty, graduating senior BSc. student, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

During the past two years as an intern with the Alachua Audubon Society, I have had so many invaluable opportunities that I would not have otherwise experienced. I've helped on multiple activities, including the family bird walks at Sweetwater Wetlands, the yoga birding at Possum Creek Park, and attending the monthly board meetings. My two favorite projects were the kestrel box monitoring program and helping to set up and run the bird banding lab at Prairie Creek Preserve.

For the kestrel boxes, Bob Simons and I would go out weekly to visit different sites across Alachua County. In the winter, we built new boxes and checked on all the existing ones (there are over 100 that he has placed in the last few decades) to see which ones needed maintenance and to replace bedding. When springtime came, we went out with our peeper camera (a small camera attached to a long extendable pole that we can put inside the boxes) to check if there are chicks. Sometimes we'd find screech owls, flying squirrels, or gray squirrels; if we were lucky, we'd get a group of baby kestrels. Bob is an amazing fount of knowledge from whom I learned so much about habitat and bird management. He also showed me some of the best places to eat good southern cooking outside of Gainesville.

With the bird banding lab, I gained extremely helpful skills in bird research and handling. That is the most exposure I've had with birds, and it totally changed my view of them. When you are holding a bird in the hand or extracting it from a net, the connection between you and the bird, and the responsibility you have for its life in that moment, create this amazing sense of awe and respect that I never would have experienced. It is truly magical to be able to handle birds and to do it with someone like Dr. Katie Sieving, who has so much experience and made it so much better. Spending time around experienced professionals in the field is truly priceless because you just can't get that type of information in a classroom

setting. I honestly consider the Alachua Audubon Internship one of the most enjoyable and defining things I did during my time at UF. I'm going to miss these experiences but will carry the knowledge I gained with me forever!

From Anika Anderson, 3rd year BSc. student, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.

I really enjoyed my time as an Alachua Audubon intern, despite the fact that it was cut short because of COVID-19. During the internship, I was able to connect with many people, both in and outside of the society. This allowed me to make associations with communities and other establishments that piqued my environmental interests. I was introduced to the bird banding lab and its procedures which was one of the highlights of the internship. In addition, I attended a trip to Hawthorne to monitor Kestrel nest boxes which was a surreal experience, even though we were unable to set up a new box. Through this internship, I created one amazing connection with the GREBE club at UF (Gators Ready for Exceptional Birding Experiences Audubon Campus Chapter) which focuses on avian conservation and education. Because of this connection, I have become more involved in the entire student body and wildlife sector of the college. Between the Alachua Audubon projects, meetings, and events, I feel I have grown both academically and personally. The society has taught me so much about the avian world and how to communicate effectively with the community. This internship was truly a wonderful experience and if they offer it again next year, I will be sure to apply!

From Gabriel Gonzalez, graduating senior BSc. student, Biology-Natural Science; minor in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

I had been involved with Alachua Audubon for some time before I learned of the college internship, mostly through their weekend field trips (all of which are led by some very stellar birders, not to mention exemplary people who I am honored to call friends).

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AAS College Internship Program

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But this semester, I decided to join with them officially as an intern. Though my schedule did not offer many openings, I was able to help with two of their projects, the first of which would be none other than Alachua Audubon's 60th Anniversary. I was stationed at the Prairie Creek Banding Lab, pioneered by Dr. Sieving and Jonathan Varol, and given the title of 'Bird Maestro' – I explained the banding process to the visitors, displaying some of the birds to them to allow for pictures, while giving interesting life history facts about that species, ending with me placing it in one of their hands to fly away. I thoroughly enjoyed it and was honored to be entrusted with such a position.

The second project I helped with was Dr. Kratter's Loon Watch program, which sought to track the migration of Common Loons from the Gulf of Mexico over Gainesville to the Atlantic Coast from mid-March to mid-April. It began with a training session led by Dr. Kratter, with the purpose of standardizing the surveying techniques. From there, I was on my own, scanning the skyline at the US 441 Paynes Prairie Overlook. While I was only able to conduct two surveys before I needed to head home, I contributed nine loons to the count.

Though short-lived, my internship with the Alachua Audubon Society will be something I will always look back fondly on, even if I only consider the kindness shown to me by the board and the membership in their constant support, understanding, and willingness to share their knowledge. Adding the experience to that, well, I could not have asked for anything better.

From Jacob Ewert, 2nd year BSc. Student, Plant Science-Plant Breeding and Genetics

Being an intern for the Alachua Audubon Society was one of my greatest experiences as an undergrad at UF. The members of AAS are some of the kindest, most heartwarming people I have ever met and, as one of their interns, I got to spend the entire semester working alongside this amazing group of wise, knowledgeable bird-lovers! My goal with the internship was to get my feet wet in as many projects as I could, and I am happy to say I was successful.

During the AAS 60th Anniversary celebration and multiple Family Birding walks at Payne's Prairie, I was able to share my passion for birding with the local Gainesville community in an interactive setting. I spent the other part of my internship participating in conservation science by helping out with Bob Simons' Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program, where I assisted with cleaning out a few of the MANY kestrel nesting boxes around Alachua County in preparation for nesting season. I also assisted with Andy Kratter's annual Loon Watch program where I helped survey the migration of hundreds of Common Loons (a lifer for me!).

Although this internship was cut short by the Coronavirus, it was no doubt an incredible experience learning all about the ins and outs of the Alachua Audubon Society while also benefitting the local Gainesville community. I will miss interning for this wonderful organization, but I am excited to stay in touch with all the amazing people I met in AAS.

From Nathaniel Owenby, rising senior, BSc., Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

During this spring semester I had the great fortune to be a part of Alachua Audubon Society's internship program. While I originally applied in order to be a part of Jonathan Varol's and Dr. Katie Sieving's bird banding station project, I quickly learned that AAS had a slew of interesting and important projects they were running themselves or were providing support on. With many choices offered to me, I wanted to take part in as many as I possibly could. However, I decided to focus on the kestrel nest box monitoring project and Andy Kratter's Loon Watch project in addition to the Prairie Creek Banding Station.

While I greatly enjoyed all three projects, my favorite project that I worked on this semester was Bob Simons' kestrel nest box project. To get the chance to help impact the success of American kestrel populations in Alachua County was a really special experience. I know that I will not soon forget navigating Watermelon Pond with Bob, getting the nest boxes ready for the upcoming breeding season. I am also thankful that I was able to participate in celebrating

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The Spring Migration of Common Loons in Alachua County, Florida

Watching the spring migration of Common Loons (hereafter loons) in Alachua County is quite an adventure. You may fretfully watch empty skies for a seeming eternity and suddenly a fast, high-flying flock materializes out of nowhere and they are gone in an instant. If lucky, several flocks may pass in a day; if you are really lucky, more than 50 loons can be counted in a single morning. In 2020, a squadron of Alachua County's finest birders staffed observation stations and joined the fun to quantify this spectacle.

Although Common Loon migration over Gainesville had been noted going back to Frank Chapman in 1887, the details and mechanics of this spring passage were not known. Soon after I moved here in the late 1990s, Rex Rowan sent an email to watch for Common Loons migrating over town in early April. A great opportunity for a yard bird I thought and so, in March 2000, I did a sky watch and observed a loon on two days, and then a flock of seven in early April. I moved to my current house in early 2001, so repeated the sky watches and scored another new yard bird.

I was intrigued by these birds. Loons are best known for migrating along coastlines, and are usually reluctant to cross over land. Large numbers winter on the Gulf of Mexico, but somehow they must reach their breeding lakes in Canada and the very northern United States by crossing land. But why were these birds regularly flying over Gainesville, smack in the middle of the Florida peninsula? Starting in 2003 I started doing regular sky watches to find out more. I noted the birds were not flying north, but northeast. The birds were quite regimented in their daily movements, appearing from 45 minutes to two hours after sunrise. By 2009, I amassed a good bit of data and published these results in the *Florida Field Naturalist*. I ended up documenting a new migratory pathway. Common Loons are travelling from the Gulf of Mexico, near Cedar Key, to the Atlantic Ocean, near Jacksonville, in a more-or-less north east direction. Like elsewhere, the loons began their migration at dawn. Leaving near Cedar Key, they fly about 60 miles/hour and that brings them over Gainesville about 45 minutes to 2 hours hours after sunrise, depending on how far offshore they started. Another hour of flying and they hit the Atlantic. Looking at a map, you can see that a route over Alachua County is the shortest

overland route from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic on the Florida peninsula.

I have been systematically watching loon migration in Gainesville since 2003 and have counted, with the help of others, over 6000 loons through 2019. This year we received a generous grant from Duke Energy to expand our studies and bring the results to a greater audience. The Alachua Audubon Society further assisted by providing internships to four students who have helped as observers (Anika Anderson, Gabriel Gonzalez, Nathaniel Owenby and Jacob Ewert). The plan was to have eight observation stations in a north-south orientation, spaced at least one mile apart to avoid double counts. This design can help determine the width of the migratory pathway and determine the variation among stations. The counts run from 15 March to 15 April. Members of the outstanding local birding community just about filled all 250 slots on the schedule, with birding luminaries such as Rex Rowan, Adam and Gina Kent, Scott Robinson, Rachel Woods, Peter Polshek, Laura Gaudette, Barbara Shea, Adam Zions, Patricia Moon, Jonathon Mays, Paul Sindelar, Ben Fick, Karl Miller, and Debbie Segal participating. Our work in Gainesville is being done in concert with Paul Spitzer, who is studying loon migration at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, south of Tallahassee. He is studying the component of Gulf of Mexico loon populations that head straight north in spring to return to their breeding grounds. The geometry of the Big Bend region funnels loons toward St. Marks, where they embark on their overland flight.

Although the basics of the cross-Florida loon migration have been figured out, gaping holes still exist in our knowledge. In particular, how many loons use this pathway? And which populations use the cross-Florida route? Loons may use different strategies depending on their age. Common Loons take about five years to reach breeding age. Loons on their breeding lakes are very territorial and fiercely defend their turf. For a bird less than breeding age, there is little reason to return to the lakes where they hatched. Instead, many of the non-breeders summer coastally in eastern Canada, which has rich prey bases (fish) and no nasty territorial adults. Satellite tracking has shown that some first summer birds that hatched in Minnesota and wintered on the

Continued on page 12

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Conversations with John Hintermister

On January 31, 2013, Rex Rowan sat down with John Hintermister to chat about birding in Alachua County. John's fascination with birds began in the mid-1950s at the early age of 11. And at 16 he became one of the founding members of the Alachua Audubon Society. For almost six decades he was committed to birds, conservation, and the society which he helped to establish. Rex recently published his conversations with John on YouTube. The four videos, each approximately 16 minutes long, can be viewed at the following links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiJKWfowlg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfXoccNOQ60>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0va5_ze9Tvo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2a44OYeiks&t=609s>

Thank you, Rex, for preserving a snippet of John through the video interviews and for helping to preserve in our hearts the knowledge, humor, and down-to-earth personality of this local birding legend and dear friend. Although John passed away 14 months ago, his persona lives on with the archived video interview.



Female Boat-tailed Grackle (above) and Common Yellowthroat (left). Photos submitted by AAS member Dave Yonutas.

AAS College Internship Program

(Continued from Page 8)

AAS's 60th anniversary. The cornerstone of conservation is educating the public, and it was through the celebration that I learned how important public outreach is to AAS.

As a Wildlife Ecology and Conservation student at UF, this internship has been a defining experience for me. While the experience I gained will undoubtedly assist me in my future career, I also had the chance to learn what AAS is all about. It is clear that everyone involved loves birds, but it is also clear that AAS cares about conservation above all else. AAS sets an incredible example for anyone in the field of conservation, and I am thankful that they are so involved with the public here in Alachua County and with students like myself at UF.

From Shannon Summers, 3rd year BSc. student,
Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

I am a third year Wildlife Ecology major at the University of Florida. I first heard about this internship with Alachua Audubon through another intern who was previously in the program. When she described this program, I immediately knew it was for me. I've had a lot of opportunities throughout the semester as an Audubon intern and I've really loved the chance to get involved with fellow birders who are also passionate about the environment. Throughout the semester I was involved in a number of projects. One of the highlights was the grand opening of the Prairie Creek Banding Lab where I had the chance to talk about bird conservation with the public and give them the chance to view birds up close. It was an amazing experience to be able to foster interest in bird conservation in people of all ages.

I was also heavily involved with a partner of Alachua Audubon, the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI). I helped Gina Kent, an ARCI conservation scientist, prepare and tag snail kites as part of her ongoing research on the species. I also helped her raise awareness about ARCI when volunteering at her 3k Raptor Run in St. Augustine, FL.

I've had an incredible semester working with Alachua Audubon and I've learned a lot. My time with them has been invaluable and I look forward to working with them more and seeing what other projects AAS has in store.

The Spring Migration of Common Loons in Alachua County, Florida

(Continued from Page 9)

Gulf of Mexico, hopped over the Florida peninsula and then headed north over the Atlantic to summer off eastern Canada.

The results in 2020 so far indicate a great success. The single day record was smashed; on 31 March the eight observers racked up 325 loons, besting the old record by more than 125 birds! And, no joke, we racked up another 299 birds on April first. This was after two weeks of stable weather with deep fog on many mornings, which likely curtailed most loon migration. Through 12 April, a total of 2154 loons have been recorded, which smashes the single season record of 895 (in 2014). The numbers the past few days are in steady decline, and the end of the season is only a few days away. Sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico were particularly warm this season, and we forecast an early departure. Instead, the timing of this year's migration was a bit later than normal, with the median this year being day #92 (April 1st this year) when the average median day number is 90. Who knew that attempting to get a tick on my yard list way back in 2000 would snowball into major migratory discovery and a massive effort to untangle the complexities of loon migration?

By Andy Kratter (kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu)
Florida Museum of Natural History



A Kestrel nest box with newly hatched Kestrel chicks.

Kestrel Nest Box Program 2020

During the fall semester of 2019 we began the Kestrel nest box season with a great crew of student interns checking boxes, adding new nesting material, and putting up new boxes where needed. We also began adding aluminum sheet metal bands to the trees and poles that support normally active nest boxes to discourage cats, raccoons, and rat snakes (see photo below) from raiding the nests. The spring semester added some additional interns to help with the work, and we were making good progress when the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to our work. On our last outing with interns on 2/2/20, we went to the Goethe State Forest at Watermelon Pond, where we installed metal sheeting on three trees, put new nesting material in 8 boxes, and got some photos of a Screech-Owl in one of the boxes. I wish we could have had more time together! Student interns participating this season (fall and/or spring) included Adrian Dougherty, Joelle Carbonell, Bailey Zohar, Camya Robinson, Nathaniel Owenby, Jacob Ewert, and Anika Anderson.

Since having to part ways with the interns, Erika (my wife) and I have been continuing the work on an as needs basis. We have added sheet metal to trees and poles where we found active nesting, have put Amdro fire ant bait around ant nests near active bird nesting locations, and have documented Kestrel nesting activity in 19 boxes, Screech-Owls nesting in 6 boxes, Bluebirds nesting in several boxes, flying squirrels in some boxes, and a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers using one box, with many more boxes going unchecked. As of 4/16/20, all nesting activity involved eggs except for one box which had newly hatched chicks.

The good news is that the kestrels can nest quite successfully without our poking the pole camera in to intrude on their private lives, and we did get the boxes ready in the fall. The bad news is that we don't have as good a record of the successes and failures this season, and we didn't get to have as much time working with our student interns.



Bob installing sheet metal around a dead longleaf pine trunk that supports an active Kestrel nest box. Photo by Erika Simons.

By Bob Simons



*Yellow rat snake in a nest box (not a Kestrel box).
Photo by L. Appleget.*



A male Kestrel incubating eggs.

Alachua Audubon Society's Board of Directors

(Continued from Page 5)



on campus. We know that there is often a supportive partner who assists AAS board members with the many projects, and Alan's wife Ellen has contributed by supplying the popular paper bird patterns for children at our festival booth (and staffing the booth on occasion) and providing delicious cuisine for various AAS-related gatherings such as the Holiday Party, the annual April Potluck gathering, and the Backyard Birding Tour after-party.

Although Alan and Ellen will be moving to the Orlando area this fall, Alan plans to continue his involvement with AAS. He hopes to continue discussions with Kanapaha Botanical Gardens regarding creating a Bird Garden, a project that AAS will enthusiastically embrace. He has advocated for more observation towers at birding hotspots, more benches for us aging birders to pause at during long hikes, and the creation of a bird blind such as the one at Morningside Nature Center. Alan's motivation and vision has contributed to our organization's many successes and we are extremely grateful that he plans to stay involved with AAS projects despite his relocation.

Cindy Boyd has served on the AAS board for two years, primarily helping to coordinate and run the Santa Fe College Community Education birding classes. According to Cindy, "I have especially enjoyed helping to nurture a love of birds and birding among the students in these classes and I plan to continue helping with the classes whenever I am available." In addition to the birding classes, Cindy helped staff the AAS festival booth at the Native Plant Sale and the Kanapaha Garden Festival. "I feel truly honored to have served on the board with so many wonderful people."



Steven Goodman may well have been one of our youngest board members, starting on the board in 2016 as an incoming college freshman. Since elementary school, Steven has been active in the local birding community, learning to bird with his father, Ted Goodman, and attending many weekend AAS field trips throughout middle and high school. Following his dad's tenure on the AAS board, it was a natural progression that Steven also serve on the board of the AAS. According to Steven, "I originally joined the board to provide input regarding AAS's youth birding programs, which are still going strong!" Over time, Steven helped start the high school scholarship program, and as an accomplished birder, he began leading AAS field trips. "It's been really satisfying to see how much our chapter has accomplished in the past few years by undertaking so many new projects and ways of outreach. It's been an honor for me to be a (small) part of it." We are grateful for Steven's many invaluable

contributions, especially in regard to enhancing AAS's youth programs, and we wish him a world of success as he prepares for college graduation.

Introducing the new AAS Board Members

Tim Hardin is a Santa Fe College student majoring in Wildlife Ecology and he aims to transfer to UF upon completion of his degree requirements at Santa Fe. Tim is a disabled combat veteran, having served in the US Army for 12 years, with five deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan before being honorably discharged in 2014.

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Alachua Audubon Society's Board of Directors

(Continued from Page 14)

Tim is a member of Veterans for Peace and the Alachua County Labor Coalition.

Tim's love of birds started when he was 7 years old and living in western North Carolina. His earliest birding memory is a treasured pocket Audubon Field Guide with a Blue Jay on the cover, given to him by his parents one Christmas. It wasn't until a March 26th, 2019 trip to Sweetwater Wetlands Park (and an Audubon Wednesday bird walk the next day) that his passion for birds was truly ignited. Tim credits his partner, Roxanne Palmer, for encouraging him to start birding again after he moved to Gainesville from NYC, and for supporting his efforts to enjoy all the natural beauty in Alachua County. He can usually be found at local birding hotspots. Tim especially enjoys spring and fall migration and loves the challenge of finding every migrant warbler he can. Will he find us the next Kirtland's Warbler?



From Tim, "Thank you to Roxanne and everyone who has mentored me, taught me, supported me, and encouraged me in birding. I always enjoy listening and learning about birds, the flora and fauna, the land, and our local birding community. I especially appreciate the history and legacy of the local conservationists and birders who have done so much to preserve, protect, and share the wealth of natural resources here in Alachua County and beyond. Thank you especially to the leaders of Alachua Audubon for this opportunity to serve on the board. I hope to put the same energy and enthusiasm I put in the field into the great work and activities organized by Alachua Audubon!"

Pratibha Singh, called Polly by many, works at the College of Business at UF. She moved to the United States from India after serving in the Forest Service for over 15 years. She has spent many years managing human/animal conflicts and wildlife. Here in the US, she graduated from Carnegie Mellon College, volunteered at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, worked at the Santa Fe Teaching Zoo, and taught captive wildlife care and plant biology at Unity College at Maine.

"When I came to Gainesville, I knew no one other than my husband and kids, so I started looking for people and groups with similar interests. I have always enjoyed observing nature – I was also trained to do that but my obsession with birds came much later in life. One Wednesday morning bird walk at Sweetwater Wetlands Park (led by Rex Rowan) changed my interest in birds to maniacal levels. I am very lucky to live in Gainesville which has a wonderful birding community. I absolutely love the June challenge we do in the heat and the fun we have doing it! I look forward eagerly to the yearly pilgrimage to see the burrowing owls in the Watermelon Pond area. Most of all I love listening to the call of Sandhill Cranes! I love birds because to me birds signify resilience and freedom.



Bird migration has always fascinated me – how do birds know exactly where to go and when to go?"

"I am thankful to my husband and children who put up with my vanishing acts on Saturday or Sunday mornings to watch birds. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve on the Alachua Audubon Society board."

Purple Martins Breeding at the Lake City Wetlands

In January 2018, the Alachua Audubon and Four Rivers Audubon Societies teamed together to purchase an 8-gourd Purple Martin nesting system and installed it at the Lake City Treatment Wetlands. The martins quickly found the new feature and nested in the gourds during the 2018 season. In 2019, Purple Martins again returned to nest in the martin gourds, however, the population of martins appeared to have increased at least two-fold from the previous year. Given the success of nesting Purple Martins at the Lake City Wetlands, combined with the increase in the population from 2018 to 2019, board members of Alachua Audubon voted to fund and install another nesting gourd system.

On February 28th, four members of AAS – Mary Ellen Flowers, Tedd Greenwald, Bob Knight, and Debbie Segal – installed a second Purple Martin nesting system, this one with 12 gourds. After the installation was complete, we observed at least 15 Purple Martins circling and feeding over the wetlands. When the site was checked on April 23rd, Purple Martins occupied every one of the 20 nesting gourds that Alachua Audubon and Four Rivers Audubon installed. Although it is a challenge to accurately count a swarming flock of birds, Bill Pirzer counted 28 martins circling



Photo by Debbie Segal.



Photo by Tedd Greenwald.

the nesting gourds as Bob Knight, Mary Ellen Flowers, Tedd Greenwald, and Debbie Segal checked each of the gourds. Fifteen of the 20 gourds contained eggs and/or recently hatched chicks. The remaining five gourds showed signs of nest-building so it is likely that those gourds will produce young also.



*Purple Martin hatchlings.
Photo by Tedd Greenwald.*

By Debbie Segal

Based at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, [Audubon EagleWatch](#) seeks information about Bald Eagles, active nest locations and possible disturbances or threats to nesting activities. As one of the premier community science programs in Florida, EagleWatch works to protect approximately 40% of the state's nesting pairs. The letter below is a snapshot into the methods of data collection.

Dear EagleWatch Volunteers and other interested parties,

This part of the season can be a roller coaster of emotions. We've had older eaglets pass in the nest recently for no apparent reason and others eaglets that had tragic accidents that led to their demise. Amidst these sad stories, we've also had happy surprises – nests that volunteers were certain had failed suddenly have large healthy eaglets, or nests that definitely failed but now the pair has reclused and is on eggs again. Eagles are SNEAKY.

That's why it's so important that we make regular visits to our nests (*and enter the data*) through the end of the season, even if we think the nest is inactive or has failed. Your regular entries in the database let me know that the nest is being consistently monitored so I can accurately determine the final outcome for each nest this season. If you list the nest as Inactive and don't enter any visits beyond February, for example, I'm unable to say for sure if the nest was truly inactive or if perhaps the pair nested late after you stopped going. In those cases, I have to exclude the nest from our season summary and analysis due to insufficient data, and I hate having to do that.

So as we stare down the barrel of the last 2 months of the official nesting season, I wanted to encourage you to finish strong. If your nest has fledged young, your monitoring requirement is officially over. Well done! You are welcome to continue to visit and report on your nest to document persistence of the family at the nest site if you'd like but it's not required. For everyone else, here's what I ask:

- If you haven't been by your nest in more than 3 weeks, please plan a visit soon and be sure to enter that data in the nest database, especially if your nest has been active.
- If you've been visiting but haven't entered those visits in the database, use this forced down time to catch up on your back-entries.
- If your nest is inactive or failed earlier in the season, please still continue to visit the nest at least once a month through May and log your visits in the database, which helps me know the nest has been monitored enough to confirm that it was truly not active and/or didn't pull a late reclutch.
- Make sure that by the end of the season, you have an outcome for each eaglet you've reported as seen. So if you saw and reported 2 eaglets at some point this season, you should eventually report 2 fledged, 1 fledged/1 perished or both perished by the end of the season. Don't hesitate to email me to help talk through your observations if you're not sure what outcome to choose.
- If you need the info to access the nest survey form, let me know – I'm happy to send it!

Other ways you can help:

- If you have moved this season, or if your email or contact phone has changed, let me know so I can update your record.
- Verify that the mapped location for the nests you monitor are correct by checking them on the [EagleWatch Public Nest Map](#). If they are not correct, let me know.



Photo by Daniel Larremore

[Continued on page 18](#)

2019/2020 Winter Hummingbird Banding Summary (an excerpt)

From *Hummingbird Research, Inc.*, a non-profit organization founded in 2009 by Fred Bassett to promote the conservation of hummingbirds through research and education, continuing the vision of Bob and Martha Sargent and the Hummer/Bird Study Group. For the complete summary, including comparisons with the five previous winter seasons, see Fred Bassett's Updates [here](#).

Our Hummingbird Research banding team has completed another winter hummingbird banding season in the Southeast. We banded 139 hummingbirds of six species. Those include 85 Ruby-throated, 27 Rufous, 20 Black-chinned, 4 Allen's, 2 Calliopes, and 1 Buff-bellied.

Fourteen of our previously banded hummingbirds of two species returned to, or near, the original banding location. Ten Ruby-throated returned including three back for the second winter, five back for the third winter, and two back for the fourth winter. Four Rufous returned including two back for the second winter, one back for the sixth winter, and one back for the seventh winter. We recaptured seven hummingbirds at locations other than where they were originally banded.

Total banding numbers this past winter were about average for the past five years, but we continue to see big changes in the species banded. Ruby-throated hummingbirds now are about 60% of the birds we band, which is a huge change from about 10% the first ten years of our research. Rufous were less than 20% of birds banded this winter in contrast with an average of about 70% the first ten years. Numbers of Black-chinned and Allen's did increase this winter, which gives us some hope that Rufous numbers will rebound.

Returns continued to decrease this winter as a direct result of the continuing decrease in Rufous hummingbirds. Rufous have always provided the bulk of returns, and their dwindling numbers provide fewer birds that can possibly return.

This winter marks 22 years of our continuing research about wintering hummingbirds in the Southeast, providing valuable information about hummingbird cycles and trends. We don't always get the data we want, but it is important to document the changes. We can only get that data because of the many hosts who allow us to add their winter visitors to our research. We thank you and look forward to seeing you and your special winter hummingbirds again next winter.

By Fred Bassett

EagleWatch

(Continued from page 17)

If your pair has several nests in their territory, the currently active nest will be designated by the regular ID (HL047, for example) and alternate nest locations used in past seasons will have a letter after the ID (such as HL047a). So also let me know if the location your pair is using this season is showing on the map as the alternate nest so I can correct it.

I'll close with a story that brought me a lot of joy at a time when it felt like all I was hearing was bad news. A visitor to Honeymoon Island took a photo of an immature eagle perched by the eagle nest on the island. Unfortunately, that nest had recently failed, losing unseen chicks the adults had been feeding. The visitor noticed the immature eagle was banded and showed the photos to park staff who forwarded them to me. Lo and behold, it was Black band 04/A, one of the juveniles we banded three years ago as part of our Auxiliary Banding Study!



Banded immature eagle. Photo by Daniel Larremore.

By Shawnlei Breeding

Around the County

(Continued from page 2)

Warblers were reported, one March 22nd by Jennifer Donsky at Bolen Bluff and another April 5th by Tim Hardin on Payne's Prairie basin along U.S. 441. Tim also had a Tennessee Warbler April 11th at Pond Park off SE 4th Avenue, and Geoff Parks heard a Black-throated Green Warbler singing in his yard on the 13th. We had two Kentucky Warblers, one spotted by Anne Casella April 9th in her Gainesville yard, and one April 11th in Ron Robinson's yard south of Alachua. The 11th was a good day for birding in general, as a cold front had just passed through sprinkling Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a micro-burst of migrant warblers



*Indigo Bunting at Sweetwater Wetlands Park.
Photo by Dick Bartlett.*

across the county. Also that day, Peter Polshek noted a Bank Swallow near the airport, and David Alvarez reported a Cliff Swallow along with some fifty Northern Rough-winged Swallows at SWP.

One of the most welcome sightings this early spring was not a migrant but a resident breeding bird. Hairy Woodpeckers have long been extremely scarce here, but last year they were completely undocumented, so it was good news that Jonathan Mays spotted one April 11th in suitable breeding habitat at the Hatchet Creek Tract of Newnans Lake Conservation Area. Another breeder that went undetected here during nesting season last year was Yellow-breasted Chat. Now that water levels on the prairie basin have gone down a bit, perhaps they will re-establish themselves there.

Receding water levels also created some good shorebird habitat on the prairie, with some birding

parties in March tallying yellowlegs and dowitchers in the triple digits along Cones Dike. But with the closure of the parks, those areas became inaccessible. SWP had some decent habitat, but as of this writing the only shorebird species really taking advantage there were Black-necked Stilts.

We had several Brown Pelican sightings. Chris Anderson and Chris Cattau each spotted what was probably the same bird at Newnans Lake March 23rd and 24th, respectively. Caroline Poli had one as a fly-over at Watermelon Pond March 30, and Rex Rowan reported two high overhead April 7th at Celson Creek Boulevard off U.S. 441. Rex also spotted a Black Skimmer passing over the prairie basin March 16th while conducting a "Loon Watch", which was part of UF ornithologist Dr. Andrew Kratter's efforts to tabulate the spring passage of migrating Common Loons over Alachua County. Look for his interesting results elsewhere in *The Crane*. By the time you receive this issue, spring migration will be continuing, and likely just past its peak. You can count on reading all about it in your next issue, so see you then. In the meantime, get out there!!!

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through April 14th 2020.

By Mike Manetz



Suspect a crime against Florida's birds, fish, wildlife or natural resources? See an injured animal? Report incidents to FWC's [Wildlife Alert Reward Program](#) online or call 888-404-3922. From your cell phone call *FWC or #FWC, or send a text to Tip@MyFWC.com. Learn more at [MyFWC/contact/wildlife-alert](#).

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To join National Audubon, please go to AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership where you will be directed to their membership page.

Alachua Audubon is a 501(c)3 organization.

Audubon Membership Explained

To join Audubon at the local level, please visit the AAS website where you may use PayPal to pay by credit card. You may also complete the membership form to the left, or print a form at AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership. Choose the membership level that is appropriate for you. Mail the completed form with your check, payable to **Alachua Audubon Society**, to the address provided.

To join Audubon at the National level, go to AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership where you will be directed to the NAS membership page. Your introductory membership will be credited to our local chapter and you will become an annual member of the **National Audubon Society**, **Audubon Florida** and **Alachua Audubon**, with one-year subscriptions to *National Audubon* magazine, *Audubon Florida Naturalist* magazine, and Alachua Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter, *The Crane*.

Please send any questions to AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com