

# The Crane

Volume 62 Number 4 March – April 2021

## Message From The President

Alachua Audubon is excited to welcome five selected applicants to our Spring Internship program. Chloe Arbogast, Lexie Scott, Carolina Bello, Grayson Koch, and Veronica Simeoni, all undergraduates at UF, comprise the largest-to-date flock of AAS interns. All five interns will learn the techniques of netting and banding birds by participating weekly at AAS's Prairie Creek Bird Banding Lab. Additionally, each intern will be engaged in one or more other avian-related internship projects. These projects include data analysis and monitoring Southeastern American Kestrels, monitoring the spring migration of Common Loons, installing a native plant educational garden at the Prairie Creek Bird Banding Lab, and assisting non-profit Avian Research Conservation Inc. (ARCI) with office and/or field tasks.

A huge round of thanks to the numerous volunteers who will be mentoring and sharing their avian expertise to make this internship program possible - AAS board members Jonathan Varol and Katie Sieving (UF) for teaching students at the bird banding lab; Karl Miller (FWC) and AAS board member Bob Simons for assisting with kestrel monitoring; Andy Kratter (UF Natural History Museum) for implementing and overseeing the loon migration project; and Gina Kent (ARCI) for including the interns in her avian-related projects.

We are excited to extend an internship position to Chloe, Lexie, Carolina, Grayson, and Veronica, and extremely appreciative of the many volunteers who are contributing their time and expertise to this program. Stay tuned for stories from the interns in the next (May-June) AAS newsletter.

By Debbie Segal



*Jonathan Varol instructing AAS intern Lexie Scott in releasing a just-banded male Eastern Bluebird. Photo by 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  
May-June issue: April 15<sup>th</sup>

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.

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**FWC Adopts New Rules Controlling Invasive Reptiles**

On February 25th, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission adopted new rules that will enhance protection of the environment from non-native invasive reptiles. Alachua Audubon joined many other conservation organizations in providing verbal testimony at a public hearing supporting adoption of the new rules. Currently, Burmese pythons, reticulated pythons, scrub pythons, Northern African pythons, Southern African Pythons, amethystine pythons, green anacondas and Nile monitor lizards are on a conditionally regulated list of species. Tegus and green iguanas are not regulated. The new rules moved these species to the Prohibited list. These species are a threat to Florida's ecology, economy, and human health and safety. They are a particular threat to the environment in south Florida due to its subtropical climate and lack of winter freezes. Florida currently spends over \$8 million to control these species with limited success. These reptiles pose a major threat to Florida's birds and wildlife. Although the reptile pet trade was adamantly opposed to the rules, 79% of the comments received by FWC supported adoption of the rules. These species are a very small number of the reptiles that are sold and exhibited by the pet trade as over 4000 reptiles are trafficked. The rules will allow pet owners to keep these animals for the rest of their natural lives but will outlaw possession and sales in the future and end commercial breeding. Exhibition of these species will still be allowed with limitations. For more information, go to [this link](https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/february-2021/) on the FWC website: <https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/february-2021/>



*Team at Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida holding a female python that measured over 17 feet and weighed 140 pounds. It contained 73 developing eggs. Photo by Big Cypress National Preserve.*

## Don't Miss Our Evening Programs!

### March 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Breaking New Ground with Florida Scrub-Jay Translocations

Join us on [zoom](#) to hear Breaking New Ground with Florida Scrub-Jay Translocations. Dr. Karl Miller of FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute will share the latest findings from his translocation research on Florida Scrub-Jays. Karl and his team are translocating jays from Ocala National Forest to conservation lands in north and south Florida to achieve multiple objectives. New techniques, used at different times of the year, are proving beneficial for the safe and effective translocation of this threatened species.

This work is the cover feature of the current national Audubon magazine. If you would like to read about Dr. Miller's work before the program, go to the national website, choose magazine, and then choose "How Researchers Hope to Save the Florida Scrub-Jay from an Inbreeding Crisis" or click [here](#).

### Monday, April 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m. HUMMINGBIRDS!

In April we will focus on one of the area's most popular birds, the hummingbird. Fred Bassett is known in this area as he frequently travels here to band hummingbirds from his base in Alabama. We asked Fred to give us a zoom talk and he replied that he has many requests and thus has created a recorded presentation that he hopes we will use. And we will! After viewing Fred's 30 minute talk we will have a panel of local bird enthusiasts who have a long history of contact with Fred and extensive knowledge of hummingbirds. They will field questions and tell of experiences with Fred. We hope you will join us on [zoom](#).

AAS Programs [Zoom link](#) here.

### April 13, 2021, 5:30 p.m. A World On The Wing

Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE) presents ornithologist and Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weiden-saul who celebrates the natural world—particularly birds and bird migration—in his research. He will talk about his latest book "*A World On The Wing - The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*."

**Registration is required.** Register [here](https://audubonwe.org/trips-talks-events/): <https://audubonwe.org/trips-talks-events/>

### April 21, 2021, 7 p.m. Blakiston's Fish Owl

Sarasota Audubon (SAS) offers a talk by Jonathan Slaght, author and wildlife biologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society as their Russia & Northeast Asia Coordinator. He will discuss his book, *Owls of the Eastern Ice* (reviewed in the Jan/Feb issue of *The Crane*), where we join a small team in Siberia for late-night monitoring missions, and fireside tales of the fish owls. **Registration is required.** Register [here](#).

*Would you like to be reminded when our programs are nearing? If so, send an email to [programs@alachuaudubon.org](mailto:programs@alachuaudubon.org) and you will be sent an email reminder prior to each program.*

### Past AAS Programs Available Online

Miss one of the AAS evening programs? Watch them online at your leisure from the [Programs](#) page of our website at [www.alachuaudubon.org/programs/](http://www.alachuaudubon.org/programs/)

"Bird Bling: How Banding Birds Aids Conservation" presented by Adam DiNuovo

"Building Birding Skills" by Adam Kent

"A Fight Against Time" about the critically endangered Nordmann's Greenshank by Philipp Maleko

"A New Wetland in Gainesville!" presented by Gainesville Regional Utilities.

"Conservation Ecology of Short-tailed Hawks, Swallow-tailed Kites, and Snail Kites" by Gina Kent.

"The 2020 Christmas Bird Count In Alachua County, a Synopsis" by Andrew Kratter.

## GREBE Bird-A-Thon Fundraiser

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the GREBE Audubon Campus Chapter at the University of Florida will be hosting a big day fundraising event! For those of you not familiar with the concept of a big day, allow me to explain. During a 24-hour period, you try to see as many species of birds as possible. The cost to enter will be \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for non-students, and the person who sees the most birds will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to Wild Birds Unlimited!



Rules are detailed below:

- 1) All birds that you report for your daily total must be from March 20<sup>th</sup>. Even if you heard or saw something on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM or March 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 AM—those won't count.
- 2) Captive birds do not count. This includes those in a rehabilitation center and escaped pets. If you see a bird you suspect to be included in this category, but are unsure, take a photo and send it with your list with as much detail as possible about the behavior, location, and condition of the bird.
- 3) Please send your totals in the form of A) a photograph of a LEGIBLE hand-written list B) link(s) to eBird checklists \*RECOMMENDED\* or C) a Word, Excel, or PDF document to [grebeuf@gmail.com](mailto:grebeuf@gmail.com) by March 25<sup>th</sup>. Results received later than the deadline will not be counted.
  - A) If you are not submitting lists via eBird, please be sure to include your total time (ex: from 8:12 AM to 6:03 PM). If you stop birding at any point in the day, please break your time up (ex: 8:12 AM to 11:30 AM; 3:00 PM to 6:03 PM).
  - B) If you are not submitting lists via eBird, please be sure to include your location(s) where you were birding.
  - C) While counts of individual species are not required (ex: 51 Red-winged Blackbirds), this is helpful information and will be used as a last resort for breaking a tie.
- 4) The winner will be notified by email by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and arrangements will be made for them to receive their prize.

Please pay through Venmo (@GREBEUF) or at Wild Birds Unlimited located at 4212 NW 16th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL.

I hope you will consider joining us for our Big Day event. Not only is it a fun challenge, but it's a good way to get acquainted with your local birds. If you have any questions, please email us at [grebeuf@gmail.com](mailto:grebeuf@gmail.com).

Clara Darr, Treasurer  
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. Loaner binoculars are available. For questions, please email [grebeuf@gmail.com](mailto:grebeuf@gmail.com) or visit us on Facebook: [@ufgrebeparden](https://www.facebook.com/ufgrebeparden)



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## Spring is Coming! Create Your Own Park!

If you haven't heard Doug Tallamy's presentation, *Creating a Homegrown National Park*, you simply must. It was presented by Orange Audubon Society and is now available on YouTube [here](#).

Dr. Tallamy is engaging, entertaining, and upbeat. He has great pictures and a lot of them. Although our natural world is declining, he presents hopeful solutions that each one of us can do starting today. He states that living with nature, and not separate from it, is the only viable option left to us. Nature must be able to thrive in human dominated landscapes. If we change how we landscape, we can save insects, birds, nature. 85% of the land east of the Mississippi is privately owned. We can't rely on isolated parks to do the work of nature for us. Therefore, we must create homegrown parks in our own yards. He cites examples such as a couple who replaced invasive plants with natives on their 0.6 acre, installed a water feature, and have now recorded 149 bird species (including 35 warbler species). A woman on 0.1 acre close to an airport and an expressway and not connected to any preserved land added 60 native plant species and a water feature and has recorded 117 species of birds. Caterpillars dominate nestling diets in 16 out of 20 bird families. Tallamy described a study that compared native landscapes to yards dominated by non-native plants; the non-native landscapes produced 75% fewer caterpillars, were 60% less likely to have breeding chickadees (in spite of installed nest boxes), chickadee nests contained fewer eggs and were 29% less likely to survive. Carolina chickadees rear their young almost exclusively on caterpillars. To rear one clutch of nestlings until they fledge, chickadees must catch from 6 to 9 thousand caterpillars. They need landscapes with plants that support more caterpillars. We typically garden for plants that always look nice and we avoid plants that are eaten by caterpillars. This is supported by the nursery industry that offers non-natives that don't support insect life for this very reason. But, according to E.O. Wilson, "Life as we know it depends on insects." Tallamy points out that caterpillars transfer more energy from plants to other animals than any other plant-eaters.

Where to start? Shrink your lawn (there are 40 million acres nationwide). Use "keystone plants": ecologically productive; 5% of our native plants make 75% of the caterpillar food that drives food webs; *native* oaks, cherries, willows, blueberries, hickories, maples, and elms are keystone tree species that support huge numbers of insects; Goldenrods (*Solidago*), Aster genera, sunflowers (*Helianthus*), nightshade (*Solanum*), morning glory (*Ipomoea*), plantain (*Plantago*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca*) are keystone herbaceous plants. Put flower beds under your trees or let leaves accumulate to allow caterpillars to complete their life cycle in the soft soil (this is also better for the soil, the trees and the birds).

Tallamy makes it clear that nature is not just important, *it is essential*. Nature and humans must co-exist (and not just in parks). Not just a few scientists but *all* humans are responsible for good earth stewardship because *all* humans are dependent on earth's ecosystems. One person can't save the world's biodiversity but we can save it where we live. This idea empowers each one of us and makes the problem something manageable for each one of us. Who among us doesn't want that? So Dr. Tallamy says to shrink your lawn, remove non-productive invasive plants, plant keystone plant species, add a pollinator garden. You will have helped to make the world a better place for all.

Helpful sources:

Audubon Plants for Birds [www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds](http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds)

National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder [www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder](http://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder)

[A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard](#) by Ginny Stibolt and Marjorie Shropshire. University Press of Florida, 136 pp.

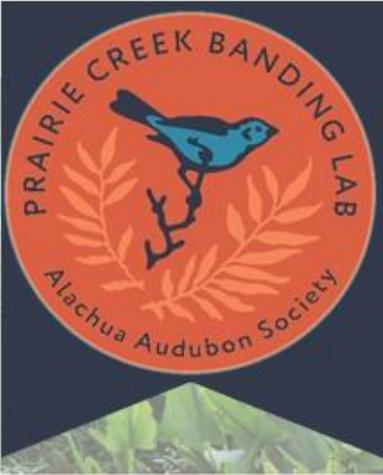
Florida Native Plant Society [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org)

Plant Real Florida [www.plantrealflorida.org/](http://www.plantrealflorida.org/)

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Doug Tallamy. Timber Press. Available in hardcover, audiobook, Kindle and audio CD. 257 pp.

By Karen Brown

# PRAIRIE CREEK BANDING LAB



The primary mission of the Prairie Creek Banding Lab (PCBL) is to provide training and instruction to students and conservation professionals in the techniques of mist netting and bird banding; to advance our understanding of how birds, both resident and migratory, utilize the regional landscape; and to promote the welfare and conservation of birds and the places they depend on.



The fundamental goal of bird banding is to record the age, sex, wing length, fat deposits, and body mass of captured species as a way of monitoring, year to year, how avian populations are faring in the wild. Bird banding research has many additional uses, including:

- Avian Behavior and Migration
- Longevity and Life Cycles
- Population Monitoring
- Weight and Plumage Changes
- Habitat Use
- Disease and Environmental Toxins

Bird banding ultimately helps us understand how to conserve and manage the land in which these species live and breed.



PCBL is based in Prairie Creek Preserve, a 606-acre conservation area of flatwoods, mesic and hydric hammocks, cypress swamps, depression marshes, and blackwater streams. Prairie Creek Preserve is owned and managed by the Alachua Conservation Trust and is situated on an important migratory bird flyway in between Newnans Lake and Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park.



## Views from the Prairie Creek Banding Lab

**Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)** has been described as a vicious bird killer and the species actually times its nesting to coincide with the spring migratory habits of North American songbirds. On one of our rounds to check the mist nets, my bird-banding team and I discovered this slight yet fierce creature lying in a hammock-like position in one of the nets. I had only caught a glimpse of this bird a mere handful of times in the past, and had never been able to get a truly good look at one....until now! This is a young bird that lacked the white and rufous barring of the breast as well as the characteristic red eye that adult birds have. Males are smaller than females, and I am unsure of the sex of this bird. I decided not to take down weight or wing measurements as I do not have a permit to band this species. I wanted to make sure I could safely remove it from the net and send it on its way...without those needle-sharp talons boring into my flesh.



Sharp-Shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*).



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

### American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

What a treat it was to finally add this large and robust species to the ever-growing list of birds we've banded at the Prairie Creek Banding Lab...and in the presence of eager UF undergrad students learning field techniques in avian conservation!

American robins are impressive birds. Their breeding range spans the entire continent, from coast to coast, and from the boreal latitudes of Canada and Alaska to southern Mexico. They've shown adaptability to virtually all urbanized and anthropogenic landscapes, and they migrate in the hundreds of thousands to lower elevations and latitudes during the winter months where they form large communal roosts and track fruit resources.

Here in peninsular Florida, they are a winter resident, and they truly do move around in a mob-like fashion. It was a real treat to finally get some of these birds in the hand.

(Continued next page)



A striking and unmistakable bird, the **Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)** is one of the most well-studied songbird species in North America. The species has adapted incredibly well to human-modified landscapes. It nests in open, disturbed habitats, selects cavities to nest in, and will readily use artificial nesting cavities and other bird boxes. Because of these habits, they are an easy bird for humans to observe and study. This is a new species for the lab, and what an exciting experience it was to catch a mated pair! Over the last 40 years, Eastern Bluebirds have become a model species for field study of fundamental questions in ecology, evolution, behavioral ecology, hormones and behavior, diseases and health, life history and morphology, and ultrastructure of coloration. In fact, here at the Prairie Creek Banding Lab, 20 artificial nest boxes have recently been mounted in order to attract bluebird pairs for a study in mating behavior, mating system variation, adult-juvenile-and nestling sex ratios, parent-offspring interactions, dispersal patterns, and migratory patterns.



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*).

By Jonathan Varol

### The John Hintermister High School Scholarship Program

To encourage youth activities consistent with the Alachua Audubon Society mission, AAS is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships (\$300) to Alachua County high school seniors who demonstrate an interest in wildlife or conservation. The expenditure of scholarship funds is not limited to academics and may be used however the student wishes. The number of awards may vary annually.

The award will be based upon the following criteria:

- Keen interest in the environment, nature, and/or conservation
- Involvement in extracurricular nature/ environmental activities
- Academic record
- Teacher/counselor recommendation.

To be considered for a scholarship, an applicant must be:

1. A resident of Alachua County
2. A student at the 12th grade level
3. In good academic standing.

To learn more about the program and to apply online, go to [www.alachuaaudubon.org/scholarship/](http://www.alachuaaudubon.org/scholarship/). The deadline to apply is March 31, 2021. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2021.

## BOOK REVIEW – Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior by John Kricher

HMH Books, 2020. Available in hardcover and eBook.

You may have noticed the bird activity outside your window and around your yard since you are spending more time at home. By now you have probably learned the names of the birds, but what's next?

It's easy to apply our human concepts to what we are seeing (anthropomorphism), but wouldn't it be awesome to get some insight as to what is actually going on and why?

According to the author of *Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior*, John Kricher, behavior is defined as “the perceptions, reactions, and choices a bird makes daily.”

A fair amount of background using ornithology gives in-depth explanations as to a bird's appearance, physiology, migration, etc., but you don't have to be an ornithologist to understand the concepts of this book. Kricher's style of writing is as though he is casually commenting on birds as he walks along a birding trail with you. He manages to cover the observations in a deeply informative way.

For example, by going into the structure of feathers, we can understand not only how they can be used to attract a mate, but also how a bird can occupy a particular habitat.

A misconception that Kricher addresses is the “submissive action” of female Northern Cardinals begging from males. This is actually a dominant action where the female is “sizing up a male's ability to continually provide.”

One of the many surprises I learned in reading this book was the use of “whisper songs” as a sign of aggression in Painted Buntings. Another is that studies have shown a correlation between egg shape and wing dimension (pointed eggs are typical of long-distance fliers). The book is packed with many nuggets of insight such as these.

*From the [HMH Books](#) web site, JOHN KRICHER is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, MA, where for 48 years he taught ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution.*

*Hear John Kricher interviewed on the January 7, 2021 ABA podcast [here](#).*

By Trina Anderson

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 codified an agreement between the U.S. and Canada for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The act helped turn the tide of rapidly declining bird populations and extinctions in the early 20th century and rescued many species from the brink of extinction. The MBTA has been a critical tool for advancing and implementing best management practices such as covering oil waste pits and marking power lines, and provides accountability and recovery after incidents such as oil spills.

Under the previous presidential administration, the act was reinterpreted to allow avoidable and negligent bird deaths from industrial hazards, contradicting decades of Republican and Democratic administrations and setting back significant progress in minimizing harm to birds. This reinterpretation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rulemaking to codify it have received overwhelming opposition from the public and key stakeholders. Since the election of the Biden administration, the FWS has begun reviewing and delaying implementation of the MBTA regulation that eliminates longstanding protections for birds.

Alachua Audubon has joined the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, the Defenders of Wildlife, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation and numerous other state and local conservation organizations in signing on to a letter supporting these actions of the FWS and urging the agency to restore protections for birds.

To learn more about the MBTA, visit the U.S. FWS website [here](#).

By Anne Casella

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## UF's McCarty Woods on the Chopping Block

*The following letter was sent to UF President Fuchs and the Director of Planning to protest the planned destruction of two-thirds of McCarty Woods on the main campus for new construction. Professor Doug Soltis will lead a walk in the McCarty Woods on Saturday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m. They will be promoting awareness of plant biodiversity and will tag some large trees close to trails using tags with scientific and common names. They will follow campus policy on social distancing and masks. Meet in front of Dickinson Hall.*

As a Gainesville-based organization dedicated to conservation and public education about local wildlife, Alachua Audubon Society opposes the destruction of McCarty Woods and the resulting loss of not only a rare and special urban wildlife habitat but an important educational resource for UF students.

As Gainesville grows and becomes increasingly developed, unspoiled urban spaces such as McCarty Woods are becoming increasingly rare. The destruction of McCarty Woods would mean the destruction of a healthy, established ecosystem featuring over 100 native plant species and serving as home to over 70 butterfly species, as well as numerous bird and other insect species. It would also have a destructive ripple effect on the surrounding ecosystem. The loss of the woods and the insects and other animals who call it home would entail a reduced food supply for nearby wildlife—such as the residents of UF's beloved bat houses.

In addition, as a public educational institution, UF has a responsibility to provide its students and faculty access to high-quality educational resources as well as a sense of connection and commitment to the well-being of the surrounding community. McCarty Woods not only offers the UF community a tangible connection to Florida's natural history, but it serves as a practical and impactful teaching and learning area—a natural and low-maintenance lab—for courses in wildlife ecology and other life sciences. McCarty Woods not only offers a practical venue for real-world practice in data collection and research, it is within easy walking distance for those working and studying on UF's main campus, making these learning experiences accessible to students without cars or those whose work or class requirements preclude long forays off campus. Alachua Audubon regularly sponsors student interns from UF, and we can attest to the value of the learning they've attained from regular access to such natural resources on campus. UF's other natural areas, such as Ordway Preserve, valuable as they are, are too far away to be practical for midday classes and are not fully accessible to all students.

While UF's master plan does add new conservation lands to compensate for those that would be lost, natural habitats and their inhabitants are not interchangeable—an established ecosystem such as McCarty Woods would take decades to develop elsewhere, and with the dearth of similar and appropriate habitats nearby, the wildlife currently living in McCarty Woods won't have the option to simply relocate. Like most undeveloped areas, McCarty Woods also serves as an important resting and foraging spot for birds and other small wildlife who don't live there, but regularly travel short distances between wilderness areas—the loss of the woods would mean longer, more dangerous forays for these already vulnerable creatures.

Alachua Audubon also wants McCarty Woods to be preserved because we care about UF. Many of us on the board are proud Gators—both alumni and faculty—as are many of our volunteers and members. We have seen firsthand the passion and knowledge that UF-trained scientists and conservationists bring not just to our projects, but conservation projects around the world, and we believe this can be credited in part to the training and appreciation of the natural world they acquired at UF. New buildings can be built anywhere, but mature forests are irreplaceable—and losing McCarty Woods would be a grievous error that cannot be undone or corrected.

Alachua Audubon Society

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*The Crane*  
March – April 2021

**Join Alachua Audubon!  
Membership Application**

Benefits of membership include expert-led field trips, programs for adults and youth, *The Crane* bi-monthly newsletter, conservation advocacy with local & state legislators, & more.

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Purple Gallinule			\$100
Swallow-tailed Kite			\$250
Sandhill Crane			\$500
Whooping Crane*			\$1,000

(\*bestows lifetime membership)

***Join online with PayPal***

**[www.alachuaaudubon.org/membership/](http://www.alachuaaudubon.org/membership/)**  
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*The Crane is distributed via email. Your email address will not be shared with other organizations.*

**Alachua Audubon (AAS)** is an official chapter of **National Audubon** and **Audubon Florida**. If you belong to National Audubon and live in our area, you are automatically a member of AAS.

**To join National Audubon, please go to [AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com)