

# The Crane

Volume 63 Number 2 Nov–Dec 2021

## FIELD TRIPS

**A**lachua Audubon field trips are back! We have been enjoying birding together again with *new safety precautions*. With the dangerous surge of the Delta variant, AAS made the decision to offer our field trips in a safe manner. **We require all participants to wear a mask and to maintain a safe distance while in the group.** We will have extra masks on hand if you forget to bring your own. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

### Saturday, November 6, 2021, 8:00 a.m. Hague Dairy (University of Florida Dairy Unit)

Meet our intrepid trip leader, Tim Hardin, at one of the county’s best spots for sparrows, blackbirds, and raptors, not to mention western strays like Yellow-headed Blackbird and Bronzed Cowbird. No sign-in required since Covid but park in the usual spot on the western side of the complex, recently labeled Classroom Parking. We will respect and defer to the workers and cows as this is a working dairy. The required masks may be easy on this one; it does smell, well, like a dairy. 13200 NW 59th Drive. Difficulty: 2.

### Sunday, November 7, 2021, 8:00 a.m. Camps Canal / Cone’s Dike

Meet trip leader Scott Robinson at the Camps Canal trailhead. Scott studies the “ecology, behavior and conservation of birds.” We will walk along the canal and then turn to the entrance to Cone’s Dike. This trail extends out into the marshes on the east side of Paynes Prairie. We’ll be looking primarily for sparrows and other newly arrived winter birds although some fall transients may still be lingering. Camps Canal Trailhead is on CR 234. Turn left at the blinking light in Micanopy (the intersection of Hwy 441 and CR 234). Park off road at the bridge. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 3.

### Saturday, November 13, 2021, 8:00 a.m. Fox Pen Preserve

Fox Pen was acquired by Alachua Conservation Trust in partnership with Alachua County in 2019. The Preserve includes a diverse mix of longleaf sandhill habitat, flatwoods, wetlands, mesic hammock and shoreline at Moss Lee Lake. It also provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife including gopher tortoise, Northern Bobwhite, multiple reptile and amphibian species, and Florida black bear. The trails are unpaved, some places could be uneven, muddy or wet. The trailhead/

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

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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  
Jan – Feb issue: December 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. Additional advertisers are welcome. Please contact the editor for more information at [karenpbrown1953@gmail.com](mailto:karenpbrown1953@gmail.com)

parking area is close to 10777 Holden Park Road in Hawthorne. Take SR 20 towards Hawthorne and turn south onto US Hwy 301. Just after the Chevron station, turn left onto 75th Ave (Holden Park Rd) and the Preserve will be about 2.5 miles on your left. We'll meet trip leaders Ivor Kincaid from ACT and Anne Casella from AAS there. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 2.

**Saturday, November 20, 2021, 8:00 a.m.**

**La Chua Trail / Sparrow Alley – Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park**

Meet trip leader Felicia Lee at the La Chua trailhead parking lot at 4801 Camp Ranch Road. We will explore this renowned hot spot, one of the best for close study of various sparrows and other brush loving birds as well as wintering flycatchers, raptors and waterfowl. Take SE 15th Street past Boulware Springs Park. Before the road takes a hard turn to the left, look for the brown park signs on a spur road to the right – Camp Ranch Rd. If water levels precipitate trail shortening or closures, we will modify our routes and expand our exploration nearby. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 2.

**Sunday, November 21, 2021, 8:00 a.m.**

**Sweetwater Wetlands Park (SWP)**

Meet trip leader Bob Knight, one of the designers of the Sweetwater Wetlands treatment system, and learn how the wetlands cleanse the wastewater that flows through the wetland cells. Bob is an advocate for Florida's springs, rivers, and aquifer and serves as the Director of the Florida Springs Institute. SWP is a very popular birding hot spot, and the berms surrounding the three large wetland cells provide a great view of water-dependent birds. We will search for ducks, rails, Marsh Wrens, Swamp Sparrows, and others. 325 SW Williston Road. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 2.

**Saturday, November 27, 2021, 8:00 a.m.**

**Newnans Lake State Forest – West Trail**

Meet trip leader Barbara Shea to see what Gainesville's own State Forest just east of Gainesville has to offer this year. Designated a State Forest in 2015, this location has a variety of habitats, including a woodland trail. There is a newly completed Sparrow Trail Loop in the large field that dominates this section of the forest. We have seen various sparrow species here like Vesper and Field Sparrows. Grasshopper Sparrows have been reported here, too. The open sky can allow long looks at raptors like Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. American Kestrels favor this field, and wintering Tree Swallows are often seen foraging. There are small areas of wetland, too, and Common Yellowthroats can be, well, common. The parking lot is on SR 26, east from Gainesville, at 1580 NE 55th Blvd. It is on the left past the Pithlachocco Trail entrance. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 3.

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**Sunday, November 28, 2021, 7:15 a.m. Orange Lake by Kayak**

Meet trip leader Matt Bruce at Heagy-Burry Park, 5040 NW 191<sup>st</sup> Place in the town of Orange Lake/Reddick. From Gainesville, head south on US-441 to the Alachua/Marion county line. From the county line, continue on 441 another 4.5 miles and turn left just past the Sunoco station onto NW 191st Place, which dead-ends at the park. You'll need to bring your own canoe or kayak for this trip. We'll paddle along the shores of McIntosh Bay to the point where it opens up to the main lake. Gulls, terns, ducks, and other open-water birds are possible, as well as marsh-dwelling species. Masks may be optional on this trip since social distancing will be easier while in our kayaks but please bring one, especially for the time before we actually get on the lake. Difficulty: 3.

**Saturday, December 4, 2021, 8:00 a.m. Lake City Treatment Wetlands**

Meet trip leader Debbie Segal in the parking lot of Hitchcock's grocery store on US-441 in Alachua and caravan to the treatment wetland near Lake City. Or you can meet us at 8:30 at the SS Food Store/gas station a block west of I-75 at Exit #423 (in front of Wendy's). The Lake City Treatment Wetland is a series of nine wetland cells and was designed to cleanse wastewater before infiltrating the water into the aquifer where it then flows to the Ichetucknee Springs. We hope to see a plethora of waterfowl, wading birds, and perhaps some rarities as we walk the dikes separating the cells. While the Purple Martins have already migrated south, you will see the very successful nesting gourds that Alachua Audubon and Four Rivers Audubon installed, and where over 100 Purple Martin chicks were raised in 2021. This site is not open to the public and the gate will be closed after we enter, so please don't be late. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 2.

**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 7:30 a.m. Fort White Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA)**

Meet trip leaders Kelly and Jason O'Connor at 7:30 a.m. at the Hitchcock's grocery on SR 26 in Newberry to caravan to the trailhead in northern Gilchrist County. We'll explore some of the most beautiful sandhills in North Florida. Although this is an under-birded area, a good number of birds have been reported in November and December such as Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Wild Turkey, Blue-headed Vireo, several sparrow species including Bachman's, White-throated and Grasshopper, plus wintering warblers like Orange-crowned Warblers, and water birds along the Santa Fe River. This is only our second trip ever to this location and if you miss it, it will be next year before the next AAS Field Trip. Please remember to bring and wear your mask. Difficulty: 2.

**Sunday, December 17, SPECIAL EVENT, Gainesville Christmas Bird Count**

Contact Andy Kratter ([kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu); 352-226-2462) or Bob Carroll ([gatorbob23@yahoo.com](mailto:gatorbob23@yahoo.com); 352-281-3616) if you are interested in participating in this all-day event. To help with planning, please contact as soon as possible. Difficulty: 3.

See more on the Christmas Bird Counts on [page 5](#).



**College Student?**

Check out the GREBES (Gators Ready for Exceptional Birding Experiences) —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: [@ufgrebegarden](https://www.facebook.com/ufgrebegarden)

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## Audubon Evening Programs

Winter Hummingbirds with Fred Bassett, Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

**NEW!** For this program we will start 15 minutes earlier (at 6:45 p.m.) for all those who wish to take part in a virtual “cocktail party/social time.” Bring a drink of your choice to your computer and chat with others about what you have seen, where you have been, and any news of your activities. This is a trial run of this idea! Hope you will raise a glass with us!

**Starting at 7:00 p.m.** View a talk given by Fred Bassett that is designed to help you coax some western hummingbirds to your feeder this winter. You will hear specific hints on this process and see some outstanding photos of these migrating western hummingbirds.

**Then we will view a video created by Bubba Scales** that shows you step by step how to use eBird to study the traffic of hummingbirds in winter in Alachua County. Bubba will join us to answer questions!

Here is your link to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82886236352?pwd=RnVJRWVMZ2xyVnd1aDV5ZjhuM2pnUT09>

or find it on the AAS website under Events and Activities -> [Programs](#).



*Hummingbird photo by Lloyd Davis.*

A Chemist’s View of Birds in Costa Rica,  
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us for a visual treat! William J. Cooper, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Irvine and now living in Florida will share his photographic treats with us. His videos were all taken at the Pierella Ecological Garden, Horquetas de Sarapiquí. This garden was the vision of William Camacho. Mr. Camacho started raising blue morpho butterflies in a 20 meter by 20 meter enclosure in 1995 and by selling them through the Costa Rica Entomological Supply he was able to buy more land for the present 3 hectares (7.5 acres) garden. The biodiversity of birds there is spectacular and provides a unique opportunity to study several species such as the White-tailed Manakin and the White-necked Jacobin Hummingbird.

Here is your link to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89595642648?pwd=b2wvYzQ5WUIycFlGSmlWQ3MvK1ZhUT09>

or find it on the AAS website under Events and Activities -> [Programs](#).



*Red-legged Honey Creeper. Photo by William Cooper.*

*Would you like to be reminded when our programs are nearing? If so, send an email to [programs@alachuaaudubon.org](mailto:programs@alachuaaudubon.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.alachuaaudubon.org/programs/](http://www.alachuaaudubon.org/programs/)

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## Christmas Bird Counts Coming Up!

The excitement is starting to build for the birding event of the year: the John Hintermister Gainesville Christmas Bird Count is Sunday, 19 December 2021. We have built a great tradition over our long history (more than 50 years). The Gainesville CBC has become a model count, well-run and highly organized with great local participation (more than 130 birders last year). The count is named for the late John Hintermister, the compiler who brought us well along to our current high standards. Even though we are not on either the Atlantic or the Gulf coasts, we are often at or near the top of all of Florida counts in terms of diversity, with the current record of 175 species set in 2018. We also traditionally rank among the best counts in the country for most species with the highest numbers of individuals, and we have set all time national highs for several species (e.g., Limpkin, Snail Kite, Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Black-and-white Warbler).  
By Compilers: Andy Kratter and Bob Carroll

**Gainesville:** Sunday, Dec. 19. Contact Andy Kratter at [kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu) or 352-226-2462, or Bob Carroll at [gatorbob23@yahoo.com](mailto:gatorbob23@yahoo.com) or 352-281-3616. Details on this highly anticipated and hugely popular evening count-up are still being worked out.

### Other CBCs taking place around north central Florida:

**Melrose:** Thursday, Dec. 16. Contact Laura Berkelman at [berkelman@windstream.net](mailto:berkelman@windstream.net) or Sallie Carlock at [graphixbyasc@aol.com](mailto:graphixbyasc@aol.com) or [santafeaudubonfl@aol.com](mailto:santafeaudubonfl@aol.com) preferably before December 1st. **Volunteers needed.** No evening count-up.

**Lake City:** Saturday, Dec. 18. Contact Valerie Thomas at [v.thomas57@gmail.com](mailto:v.thomas57@gmail.com) or 386-466-2193. **Volunteers needed.** No evening count-up.

**Ichetucknee/Santa Fe/O'Leno:** Tuesday, Dec. 21. Contact Ginger Morgan at [ginger.morgan@myfwc.com](mailto:ginger.morgan@myfwc.com) or 386-586-8249. **Volunteers needed.** No evening count-up.

**Cedar Key:** Tuesday, Jan. 4. Contact Jonathan Varol at [352-226-4472](tel:352-226-4472) or [jvarol@gmail.com](mailto:jvarol@gmail.com). No evening count-up. **Volunteers needed.**

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*The **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** is an annual census of birds administered by the National Audubon Society. CBCs are intense, day-long surveys for experienced and intermediate-level birders. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle and is organized by a count compiler. Volunteers identify and tally all birds they see and hear along their specified routes or within their designated zones. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing is encouraged while carpooling is discouraged. Masks are recommended. And the evening count-up will be virtual or canceled, depending on the decision of the count compiler.*



WILDLIFE ALERT

**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 message to [Tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:Tip@MyFWC.com). Learn more at [MyFWC/contact/wildlife-alert](https://myfwc.com/contact/wildlife-alert).**

*Date to be  
announced!*

*Date to be  
announced!*

**GET READY  
FOR THE  
2022 ALACHUA AUDUBON  
BACKYARD BIRDING TOUR**

*Explore some of Gainesville's premier backyard birding habitat  
on a one-day self-guided tour of 6 yards!  
Learn how to attract birds to your own yard!*

- ✓ See brightly colored winter visitors such as Baltimore Orioles, American Goldfinches, and many others
- ✓ Learn how to choose and present foods that attract a wide variety of birds and keep them healthy
- ✓ See how the masters attract birds to their backyard habitats
- ✓ Learn how to keep squirrels and other varmints off feeders
- ✓ Find out what vegetation to plant and where to plant it in your own yard to attract more species of birds
- ✓ See how to provide water so birds can quench their thirst and bathe in safety
- ✓ Educational displays and bird experts at each tour stop to answer your questions

Tickets will be available in January for \$15.00 per person at ***Wild Birds Unlimited***, 4212 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Boulevard, Gainesville  
Look for a February date at [AlachuaAudubon.org](http://AlachuaAudubon.org)!



**Sweetwater Wetlands Park &  
Alachua Audubon Society**  
Present  
**Wednesday Bird  
Walks at the Wetlands**



**When:** Every Wednesday @ 8:30 am  
from September - May

**Where:** Sweetwater Wetlands Park -  
**Entrance Pavilion**

Walks are free with park admission fee (\$5/vehicle)  
Bring water, binoculars, sunscreen, and walking shoes



## News from the Prairie Creek Banding Lab

After a long, and much needed, summer hiatus, we resumed banding at the Prairie Creek Banding Lab on September 19th. We created an entirely new route with much more strategic placement of our nets in order to band and monitor a much broader variety of species.

The bird featured in this post is an Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*). This species has the largest bill and longest primary wing feathers of the Empidonax flycatchers and is a widely distributed breeder in forested landscapes of the eastern United States. Their breeding range does extend southward in peninsular Florida but at a considerably lower population density than the interior and more northerly parts of their breeding range.



Acadian Flycatcher. Photo by Jonathan Varol.

This bird is one of the hundreds of species of neotropical migrants that breeds in North America and migrates south of the US border and into the Neotropics (New World Tropics) every year. This species' distribution map at left shows a complete migration with birds spending the winter in southern Central America and northwestern South America.

One of the challenges when it comes to the conservation of neotropical migrants is their extremely broad geospatial distribution. It can span thousands of miles and includes their breeding habitat, their wintering habitat, and the migratory stopover habitat that links the other two. If a migratory bird species is in decline, then understanding what threats it's facing across its range is fundamental to understanding what conservation measures need to be put in place.

This is where our job as bird banders comes into play. So much information can be gleaned from having a bird in the hand as opposed to merely observing some in the field. We age, sex, assess the overall condition of, and then affix an aluminum band to the tarsal bone (leg) of the birds that come through our lab. Our hope is that we or some other banding facility will come across the same bird at some other point in its annual cycle.

Well it's taken a few years, but we've finally managed to catch and observe a species that really shouldn't be in this neck of the woods during this time of year. In fact, even when this bird is more regionally abundant (over Spring migration), it is seldom seen by most birders.

This bird is the Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*), and this was my first time ever seeing one up close. This species breeds in the boreal and coniferous forests of Canada,



Cape May Warbler. Photo by Jonathan Varol.

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New England, and the upper Great Lakes region where it sings, feeds, and nests high in the spruce canopy. Over the winter months, this species almost exclusively inhabits the various islands of the West Indies.

So why did we all freak out about these birds? Well, we'd never had one at the lab before, let alone two, and, come on, look at that plumage! This has to be one of the most striking *Setophaga* wood warblers. More importantly, these birds have a rather meticulous migratory pattern during the Fall migratory season, and it does not typically include interior Florida. These birds hug the East Coast as they travel south and set up staging sites in high concentrations in Southeast Florida before setting off across the Straits of Florida. They are seldom seen far from the coast during fall migration.

So how'd these two end up in Gainesville? We had a cold front (finally) move into our area, and I believe many migrants traveled ahead of it. In fact, we set a high record for the total number of birds we banded that day (54), and the southeasterly front likely facilitated that. As with all migratory birds, inclement weather is the great disrupter. It can take you off course; it may deplete your food stocks and energy reserves; it could kill you. Whatever the reason may be, it was a total delight to observe these birds in this manner.

By Jonathan Varol

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### Alachua Audubon Welcomes New Interns

AAS is pleased to welcome our latest group of interns. Pedro Lopez, Samantha Hinsz and Joseph Cermak are UF students who are assisting at the banding lab, analyzing bird banding data, working with Dr. Andy Kratter on entering historical bird data, and assisting Gina Kent at Avian Research Conservation Institute with wading bird research. The internship program offers invaluable hands-on experience for students.

*Interns Samantha Hinsz and Pedro Lopez, student Gianna Arcuri, and AAS board member Tim Hardin examining a banded bird at the Prairie Creek Banding Lab. Photo by Debbie Segal.*



*Intern Pedro Lopez and Banding Lab leader Jonathan Varol with a pair of Common Yellowthroats. Photo by Debbie Segal.*

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## Would you like to partner with Alachua Audubon and support specific programs?

If so, here are some suggestions.

**Donate a New or Used Pair of Binoculars** to the GHS birding club and help us introduce more high school students to birding. Binoculars cost approximately \$125, however, your extra set of used binoculars will be gladly accepted. If you would like to help, please send an email to [Contact@AlachuaAudubon.org](mailto:Contact@AlachuaAudubon.org).

**Sponsor a College Intern** – AAS provides valuable internship experiences to college students who learn and practice mist-netting, bird banding, nest box monitoring, and more. Interns receive a \$400 scholarship at the completion of their program. Consider contributing to the AAS college internship fund with any amount. Read about the positive impacts of this internship on the students in this recent [issue of The Crane](#).

**Contribute to the Bird Banding Lab** – We are continually improving and expanding this facility. Any donation to this important project is greatly appreciated. *Donors will be treated to a tour of the Bird Banding Lab.*

**To donate any amount**, scroll down to the **Donate** button on our [Membership Page](#), choose or enter an amount, and add a note (the note option is available once you are logged in to PayPal) stating the program to which you are donating. You may also send a check and a note to AAS at the address on the last page of this newsletter. Please send an email to [AlachuaAudubonTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:AlachuaAudubonTreasurer@gmail.com) if you would like assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.



### Calling for Helpers!

Would you like to spend time outdoors in the fresh air with friendly people?

- \* No special skills required!
- \* The worst of summer will be behind us!
- \* Bird sightings a distinct probability!
- \* Prairie Creek nature trails nearby!

The recently installed native plant area next to the Prairie Creek Banding Lab needs weeding after the long, rainy summer. Efforts will begin in September and all interested helpers are encouraged to sign up. Send an email to [contact@alachuaaudubon.org](mailto:contact@alachuaaudubon.org) and you will be contacted when scheduling begins. Rest room on site. You will need to bring your own tools and gloves. It will be fun!

Alachua Audubon would like to gratefully acknowledge a donation in memory of Al Collins.

### Monthly Birds and Brews

The AAS Birds and Brews event continues to be popular with both new and experienced birders. Meet the first Sunday of the month at [First Magnitude Brewery](#), 1220 SE Veitch St. Arrive early as parking can be scarce. There will be an Alachua Audubon table set up and loaner binoculars will be available. On **November 7<sup>th</sup>** we will meet up at **4:15** for a **4:30 p.m. departure** to Depot Park. On **December 5<sup>th</sup>** we will meet at **4:15** for a **4:30 p.m. departure**. It's a lovely time of day for a leisurely stroll around the ponds to look for birds. Then we'll return to First Magnitude for an optional cold brew and conversation.

*All birding skill levels are welcome!*

**Next event: Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m.**



## 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 (\$250) 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 environmental/nature activities
- Academic record
- Teacher/counselor recommendation.

To be considered for a scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Be a resident of Alachua County
2. Be a student at the 12th grade level
3. Be 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 18, 2022. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2022.

### The NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

on Lake Apopka in Central Florida is for birders visiting Florida or locals wanting to learn more from expert birding guides. Add to your life list while exploring a unique birding hotspot **December 2-6, 2021.**

The Lake Apopka North Shore has been designated an American Bird Conservancy Globally Important Bird Area, a National Audubon Society State Important Bird Area, an Audubon Florida Special Place, and is on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail. On eBird, the Lake Apopka North Shore is the top eBird hotspot in Florida. Nearly 370 species of birds have been sighted, more than any inland site in the U.S., including the Everglades.

The sixth annual festival, sponsored by Orange Audubon Society, starts Thursday morning, December 2nd, with several field trips and a free online opening keynote. Friday, December 3rd, through Monday, December 6th, participate in field trips on the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore property and other Central Florida sites. Keynote speakers at Wekiwa Springs State Park with catered dinners lead in to evening owl and woodcock walks and a star walk. There will be 59 field trips and workshops to choose from, including several that focus on photography.

College students can register for most trips for half price, plus there are limited college student scholarships (to defray cost of travel) – awarded until funds run out.

**Register now! Trips are expected to fill up early!** For full details, go to [northshorebirdingfestival.com/](http://northshorebirdingfestival.com/).



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## Only YOU Can Prevent Window Collisions

Below are just some of the Gainesville birds reported as killed by window collisions to the UF Bird Window Collision Project:

Red-eyed Vireo	75
Cedar Waxwing	33
Common Yellowthroat	15
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10
American Robin	09



*Ovenbird killed by a window collision.*

It is tragic that so many migratory birds should come to the end of their challenging migration journeys in such a wasteful way. Birds constantly face threats to their survival, both in the air and on the ground. Windows in our homes should not be one of those threats. Ornithologists consider window collisions to be the second largest cause of bird mortality after habitat loss, causing *millions* of deaths yearly just in the United States. Most deaths from window collisions occur during spring and fall migration and fall migration is happening *now*.

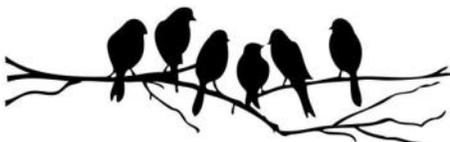
Birds cannot distinguish a reflection of trees in a window from real trees. They try to fly through the seemingly open space, only to be stunned or killed when they collide with glass. Something can be done – one simply needs to break up the reflection every 2-4 inches. There are numerous options available. A simple and inexpensive one is on view at [Wild Birds Unlimited](#). The Acopian style bird savers are fairly simple do-it-yourself projects or they can be ordered online. Alachua Audubon offers personalized advice—send an email to [contact@AlachuaAudubon.org](mailto:contact@AlachuaAudubon.org).

Follow these links for views of solutions and suggestions on how to prevent bird collisions. They range from simple, inexpensive do it yourself projects to affordable and attractive window treatments you can purchase.

- [Acopian BirdSavers](#)
- [Stop Birds Hitting Windows](#)
- [Glass Collision Solutions](#)

Learn more on the AAS website [here](#).

By Karen Brown



**The University of Florida Bird Window Collision Project** is currently in the process of collecting bird strike data across campus and around Alachua County, determining factors such as how many birds are killed, what species are most affected, what buildings are most responsible, and more. The database has 35 species and more than 200 observations recorded so far. More data is needed to make the case for bird-safe windows wherever possible. Please join us in this effort by reporting any dead bird sightings to our iNaturalist [Bird Window Collision Project \(www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-florida-bird-window-collision-project\)](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/university-of-florida-bird-window-collision-project)

After gathering the facts about campus bird collisions, the data will be made available to University of Florida and city/county officials who can make the changes that these buildings need to mitigate bird impacts. Also, UF's Natural History Museum needs certain species for their collections. Please contact Andrew Kratter ([kratter@ufl.edu](mailto:kratter@ufl.edu)) if you find a bird killed by collision with a window.



*Common Yellowthroat killed by a window.*

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## Hummer Update # 1 October 19, 2021

Fellow Hummer Lovers,

Now that most of our wonderful Ruby-throated hummers have migrated to the tropics for the winter, it's time to watch your feeders closely for western hummers migrating here for the winter.

We are already off to a great start with winter hummers. September 11 in Callaway, FL at Mary Mask's home, I was surprised when the adult male Rufous I caught was already wearing a band. I quickly looked up the band number and found I had banded that bird January 18, 2021 at Carol Yarnell's home in Dunnellon, FL. That bird was headed back to central Florida for another winter. Late September, two hummer hosts in Lakeland, FL took pictures of the bands to confirm the return of their banded hummers. Joe Misiaszek has a male Ruby-throated back for the fourth winter, and Cindy Mails has a second year return female Ruby-throated.



*Adult female Buff-bellied Hummingbird.*  
*Photo by Fred Bassett.*

I banded my first winter hummer September 28 near Greenville, GA when I banded a juvenile male Rufous at the home of Brad Myers.

Saturday 16 October, I got word that a bander in Steuben County, Indiana recaptured a female Rufous I banded January 12, 2021 in Gulf Breeze at Brenda and Charlie Roose's home. That recapture was 900 miles north of the banding location. The bird migrated back to the Pacific Northwest for the breeding season and is returning to the Southeast for another winter. I hope it returns to Brenda and Charlie's home.

Sunday October 17 in Pensacola I caught two hummingbirds I banded last winter. Jan Lloyd has her female Buff-bellied already back for the second winter (*photo at left*).

Powers and Rosann McLeod have a second year return male Rufous (*photo at right*).



*Adult male Rufous Hummingbird.*  
*Photo by Fred Bassett.*

Please maintain your feeders all winter and let me know if you get a winter visitor. I'm interested in all western hummers, and Ruby-throated count as winter hummers from November 15 until March 1.

I hope to see you and your winter hummer.

Fred Bassett  
1520 Katrina Place  
Montgomery AL 36117  
(334) 868-9658  
<http://hummingbirdresearch.net>

*Fred Bassett is a certified master bird bander who has worked with birds for over twenty years. Fred has banded more than 35,000 hummingbirds in more than 1,000 locations from Miami, Florida to Haines, Alaska. During the winter he documents western hummingbirds wintering in south Alabama and Florida. Over the last fifteen winters he has captured more than 2,000 hummingbirds of ten different species in this area.*

*Editor's note: If you would like to receive occasional Hummer Updates from Hummingbird Research, Inc., a non-profit organization, please send an email to Ron Robinson at [gonebirden@cox.net](mailto:gonebirden@cox.net).*

## EAGLE LICENSE PLATE

Eagle lovers and supporters: Here is an opportunity to support an effort by the American Eagle Foundation (AEF) to offer a specialty Bald Eagle license tag in Florida that will benefit eagle education, conservation and protection initiatives in our state. While AEF is located in Tennessee, they have been long-time funders



of Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program and operate several eagle nest webcams here in Florida that give you an eagle's eye view into the amazing process eagle parents go through to hatch and raise their young.

3,000 vouchers must be sold for the eagle tag to be approved. If the minimum presale requirement is met, your tag order will be processed. If they fall short of the necessary presale goal, your

purchase will be refunded. To purchase your presale eagle license plate tag voucher, go to:

<https://myfloridaspecialtyplate.com/eaglevoucherorder.html>.

## PHOTO CONTEST!

*Florida's Natural Beauty ~ Juried Photo Exhibition 2021* is an annual photography exhibition presented by Audubon of Martin County and hosted by HSMC and the Elliott Museum in Stuart, FL.

Audubon of Martin County believes that when we advocate on behalf of birds, wildlife and the environment, we promote a healthier, more sustainable, and more inclusive human community. Sharing a passion for Florida's natural heritage is essential for its future.

All amateur and professional photographers residing in the U.S. may enter. Please read all rules and regulations before registering to enter.

A non-refundable entry fee of \$20 (for Audubon of Martin County Members in good standing through the duration of the show) and \$25 (for non-members) will be charged for each uploaded photograph. Cash prizes and museum exhibition awarded to winners.

For more information, please visit [audubonofmartincounty.org/](http://audubonofmartincounty.org/)

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Visit [www.onlinejuriedshows.com](http://www.onlinejuriedshows.com) and look for the Audubon of Martin County logo



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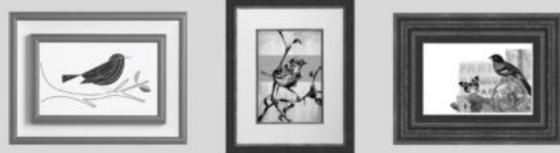


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**Alachua Audubon (AAS)** is an official chapter of **National Audubon** and **Audubon Florida**. If you belong to National Audubon and live in our area, you are automatically a member of AAS.

**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)