



The Crane

Volume 53 Number 1 September—October 2011

September and October Field Trips

Included in this Crane Newsletter is the Yearbook—a listing of all the planned Alachua Audubon fieldtrips for the 2011/2012 season. The Yearbook is also available to download on the Alachua Audubon Website.

Saturday, September 10, 8:00 a.m.

San Felasco Hammock – Millhopper Road

Meet trip leader Steve Hofstetter at San Felasco's Millhopper Road parking lot (\$4.00 per vehicle parking fee). Sandhills, forested streams, & meandering slopes set the stage for the diversity of birds we hope to find.

Sunday, September 11, TBA

Cedar Key by boat with Capt. Doug Maple

(Sign up required) A boat tour of Cedar Key's remote coastal marsh with Captain Doug Maple. Emphasis will be on shorebirds, gulls, terns, and other coastal species. You'll see more of them at closer range than you're used to. Cost \$25 per person. Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot on the boat.

Saturday, September 17, All Day North American Migration Count

Each fall near the peak of migration birders all across the continent spend a day in the field to take a snapshot of the fall migration. If you can identify most migrants and you'd like to help with the Alachua County count, call Mike Manetz at 352-377-1683.

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 a.m.

Split Rock Conservation Area

Meet in the parking lot of the Sweetbay grocery store (SW 34th St. & SW 20th Ave.) and caravan to Split Rock. Mike Manetz will lead the search for fall migrants through the park's forested uplands and unique grassy lowlands.

Sunday, September 25, 8:00 a.m.

Loblolly Woods Nature Park

Meet trip leader Caleb Gordon in the Loblolly parking lot (NW 34th Street opposite NW 5th Avenue) for a ramble through the beautiful deciduous bottomlands where Possum Creek flows into Hogtown Creek.

Saturday, October 1, 8:00 a.m.

O'Leno State Park

Admission \$5.00 per vehicle. We'll carpool from the Winn-Dixie parking lot north of the traffic light on US-441 in High Springs. Phil Laipis will lead us through this beautiful park on the Santa Fe River in search of warblers, tanagers, and other fall migrants.

Sunday, October 2, 6:30 a.m.

Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Peregrine Falcons migrate down the Atlantic Coast in fall, usually peaking in early October. Meet trip leader John Hintermister at Powers Park and carpool to the hawk-watching platform at the north end of the park in hopes of seeing Peregrines, then walk a woodland trail in search of fall warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and thrushes.

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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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The Alachua Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Content of **The Crane** is the sole responsibility of AAS and fulfills stated objectives and goals of AAS. Annual subscription to **The Crane** is included in AAS dues. Non-Audubon members may subscribe to **The Crane** for \$8 annually. All checks for subscriptions or changes of address should be mailed to Paul Moler, Membership Chairman: see back page for address. Submissions to **The Crane** are welcomed. **The Crane** is printed on recycled paper.

**Deadline for
Nov-Dec Crane:
Oct. 15th**

Alachua County's June Challenge

The June Challenge was originated by Becky Enneis in 2004 to keep Alachua County's birders motivated during some of the hottest days of the year. It started as a local affair but has since expanded state-wide. One thing that makes The June Challenge exciting is the discovery of birds that don't really belong here. In most cases these are late spring migrants, early fall migrants, or local rarities.

The 2011 June Challenge attracted 22 participants. Here are the winners, with the number of birds they sighted in Alachua County during June:

Bob Carroll / Lloyd Davis (TIE) 107; Becky Enneis 106; Rex Rowan 104; Judy Bryan 103; Craig Parenteau 103; Phil Laipis 100; Barbara Shea 100; John Hintermister 96; Helen Warren 95; Anne Kendall 92; Debra Segal 87; Ron Robinson 86; Mary Landsman 85; Ginny Rose 82; John Martin 81; Geoff Parks 79; Rob Norton 71; Katherine Edison 58; Nora Parks-Church (age 7) 54; Joshua Watson 53; and Bonnie Bernau 27 (all from her third-story window).

Congratulations to all you Challengers! The number of bird species recorded in the county during the month was 116 and include the following: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Muscovy Duck, Wood Duck, Mottled Duck, Ruddy Duck, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Anhinga, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Limpkin, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Laughing Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Common Ground-Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chuck-will's-widow, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee,

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A Long Way From Home

On July 28th, Rob Norton spotted this Semipalmated Sandpiper at Orange Lake, where receding water levels have attracted increasing numbers of shorebirds since late June. He saw that it was wearing colored bands on both legs as well as a green flag showing the letters EAE on the right leg. He carefully noted the color combinations and submitted them to a friend at New Jersey Audubon. A few days later he heard from David Pavlik of the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network **on the north coast of Alaska:** "What awesome news! To think that one of our 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers we banded this year was already re-sighted, and in Florida! This bird was banded on 25 June 2011 on our North Plot on the Colville River Delta and is a female. We collected genetic blood, feather and fecal samples. It was aged as an AHY [After Hatch Year, meaning one year old or older]. The bird successfully hatched 3 young out of a 3 egg clutch, one of the lucky ones!" The bird was still present at Orange Lake on July 29th, when Greg Stephens took this photo, but was not reported after that date. Semipalmated Sandpipers winter in the Caribbean and coastal South America.



Photograph taken by Greg Stephens.

Birding Class Offered

Would you like to learn more about bird identification? Santa Fe College's Community Education Program in collaboration with The Alachua Audubon Society (AAS) is offering a four week field course in Field Bird Identification. There are two upcoming courses that will be offered. The Fall A course starts September 10th and concludes October 1st. The Fall B course starts October 29th and concludes November 19th. Classes are on Saturday mornings and last 2.5 hours. The final class will be a longer trip to Cedar Key. Each class is led by a local birding expert. This class will benefit both beginning birders and more advanced birders. Learn to identify local birds by use of binoculars, field guides, birding scopes, and other media. We will visit local natural areas to identify birds in their natural habitat.

The course costs \$50 and generates revenue for Alachua Audubon Society. Registration is through Santa Fe College and begins on August 17th. For more information and registration go online to Santa Fe College Community Education or call (352) 395-5193. This course has received great reviews and many students have returned for additional instruction. Limit 12 students so register early as this course fills quickly. Hope to see you in class.

Kathy Haines, Class Coordinator

Backyard Birding Tour

Our first Backyard Birding Tour, held last February, was quite a success—with over 200 participants, 7 yards on the tour, and over \$2,000 raised for the Alachua Audubon Society. We are in the process of planning the 2nd Backyard Birding Tour. If you would like to consider having your bird-friendly yard featured in the next Backyard Birding Tour, please contact Ron Robinson at 352-332-4867 or gonebir-den@cox.net. Details of the Backyard Birding Tour will be provided in the next Crane Newsletter.



WILL YOU BE BUYING A CHRISTMAS TREE OR WREATH THIS YEAR?

**THEN PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING ONE FROM
ALACHUA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

AAS is selling Christmas trees and wreaths this year as a 2011 fundraiser and we need support from the citizens of Alachua County!

Benefits:

- Organically grown (no fertilizers, no pesticides)
- Fresher than most other trees (trees will be cut before we pick them up)
- Competitively-priced (and probably cheaper than most other trees)
- You will support a local non-profit environmental organization

Drawbacks:

- Trees must be ordered and paid for ahead of time (by November 7th)
- Buying your tree sight-unseen

Tree and wreath pickup place, date, and time TBA

To order, please send an e-mail to AlachuaAudubonS@gmail.com with your choice and telephone number. If you don't have e-mail, telephone 352-359-7441.

	4'-5'	5'-6'	6'-7'	7'-8'	8'-9'	9'-10'	18" wreath	\$35
Grand Fir	\$50	\$56	\$65	\$75	\$82	N/A	24" wreath	\$40
Fraser Fir	\$52	\$58	\$68	\$75	\$95	\$120		
Concolor Fir	\$52	\$58	\$66	\$75	\$88	\$116		
Balsam Fir	\$52	\$58	\$68	\$75	\$95	\$120		

To view the trees and the farm, go to www.swva.net/tbd

AAS CHRISTMAS TREE Fundraiser 2011

As fall approaches, AAS is planning our Sixth Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath sale. AAS wishes to thank all who have supported this important fundraiser in years past. With the money raised we have started birding programs for kids, purchased binoculars and birding books, and supported local conservation efforts. Thank you!!!!

This year we will need your orders and payment by **November 7th**. Contact Alachua Audubon at AlachuaAudubonS@gmail.com.

The Clover Hollow Christmas Tree farm is a 90-acre, organic farm that is run by environmentally friendly owners. To view the trees and the farm, go to www.swva.net/tbd.

The trees are comparably priced with other locally-available trees. However, our trees are fresher because they are harvested just before our delivery date. Although the trees must be paid for in advance and are bought sight unseen, our customers' satisfaction has brought them back five years in a row. Please consider buying a Christmas tree and/or wreath from AAS. And please tell your friends and family members!

Could You Be A Sponsor?

The new school year is starting and teachers are again looking for sponsors to support the **Audubon Adventures** program. This kit of material engages children in lessons about nature and the environment. To learn more about Audubon Adventures go to www.audubon.org/educate/aa/.

Sponsorship of an elementary school classroom costs \$46. Are you able to help? Please call Emily Schwartz at 372-0754 or email to emilysgfl@gmail.com to sponsor a classroom.

Continued from Page 2 Bachman's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

Rex Rowan

Haven Hospice Bird Feeders

We reported in the last edition of the Crane Newsletter that Jean Kaufman is maintaining 18 bird feeding stations at Haven Hospice for the patients, families, and staff to enjoy. We asked for donations to help offset the \$300 per year that Alachua Audubon spends to supply bird seed. And thanks to several volunteers, Alachua Audubon raised \$225! We are still looking for a few more donations to reach our \$300 goal. If you would like to donate to a cause that helps both Haven Hospice and the birds, please consider sending a donation to help cover the bird seed. Please send a check made payable to Alachua Audubon to our treasurer, Dotty Robbins at 25125 NW 210th Lane High Spring, FL 32543. Please indicate "Hospice Bird Seed" on the check.

Thank you Jean Kaufman for providing such a valuable community service for the patients, family, and staff at Haven Hospice. And thank you to

those who have or will donate to this worthy cause.



Photograph of Jean Kaufman at Haven Hospice. Photograph taken by Ron Robinson.

Colorado 2011

This year for summer vacation, my Dad and I went to Pawnee National Grasslands and Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado where we camped and chased birds. And since we were there in June, this was our June challenge. We arrived in Denver and headed to Greeley. The drive was filled with Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks, Western Kingbirds, and Lark Buntings, the most common birds of the whole trip. A pond on the side of CO 392 held three Least Terns and a Clark's Grebe.

After setting up camp, we headed into the national grasslands for some quick evening birding just before sundown. Dad saw our first McCown's Longspurs of the trip, along with 4 burrowing owls just sitting on fence-posts.

The next day we headed back out onto the grasslands to look for more longspurs and sparrows. About a mile down the road at 5:30 AM we met some birders from Denver looking at some owl burrows. It wasn't long before we saw our first Brewer's Sparrows, which would also be a very common bird during the trip. We continued on to a spot that was supposedly good for Mountain Plovers. No plovers were here, only a Grasshopper Sparrow, of which we saw about 10 on the whole trip. Then we saw the first of many Swainson's Hawks. We stopped for breakfast and saw many McCown's Longspurs doing their display flights. I was using the spotting scope to scan far out into the prairie when I came upon a Mountain Plover. Two of them! They were behaving like they had a nest nearby, for they were flying around the same general area. Later we turned up Lark and Cassin's sparrows.

On Monday, we birded the eastern section of the grassland around Pawnee Buttes. We started by visiting Panorama Point, at 5,424 feet the highest point in Nebraska. On the buttes, there was a Golden Eagle, and in the town of Grover (pop. 137) a feeder with both Lesser and American Goldfinches. Around lunch time we headed back towards the western section where we found another **Continued on Page 9**

Community Calendar

September 20th Native Plant Society Meeting; Speaker, Craig Huegel "Native Plant Landscaping for Florida Wildlife" 7 pm United Church of GNV, 1624 NW 5th Ave. Learn how to attract back to your yard using Florida native plants.

September 24th—A Florida Friendly Landscape Tour sponsored by Alachua County Master Gardeners. Wendy Wilber, Alachua Horticultural Agent, will make a short presentation at 9am and 10am at the Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43 St. A tour of several local Florida Friendly Landscapes will follow the presentation. Call 352-955-2402 to RSVP for either the 9:00 or 10:00 tour.

October 5th—The Florida Museum of Natural History Annual Educator Open House 2 – 5:30 p.m. All PreK-12 educators are invited to learn about the educational resources and learning experiences available to teachers and students, including field trips, tours, workshops, classroom activities and free resources. To earn in-service points, register in advance at www.mylearningplan.com. For more information, contact Jeannette Carlisle at 352-273-2026 or carlislej@flmnh.ufl.edu.

October 29th—Lubee Bat Conservancy 7th Annual Bat Festival 10 - 4. 1309 NW 192nd Ave. View giant fruit bats and learn how bats benefit ecosystems worldwide. Free activities, exhibits, and presentations. The Conservancy is not open to the general public on a regular basis so this event offers a rare opportunity to see unusual bats. *Visit Alachua Audubon's booth at the Bat Festival.*



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Fieldtrips (Continued from Page 1)

Saturday, October 8, 7:30 a.m.

San Felasco Hammock – Progress Center

Admission fee \$4.00 per vehicle. Meet trip leader Mike Meisenburg and carpool from the tag agency (NW 34th Street just south of US-441). We'll cover a variety of habitats in this walk, including marsh, field, habitat edges, deciduous forest, and Cellon Creek. This weekend and next should see the peak of fall migration.

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

Barr Hammock – CLEP

Meet at the Micanopy Chevron on US-441, just before the flashing yellow light. The majestic Barr Hammock land bridge between Ledwith and Levy Prairies was the highest priority of the Alachua County Forever program, and was acquired in 2006. Trip leader Michael Drummond of the county's Department of Environmental Protection will be our guide.

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

Bolen Bluff Trail

Meet trip leader Rex Rowan at the trailhead on US-441 at the south rim of Paynes Prairie. Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations, especially during the peak of songbird migration.

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

Powers Park and Palm Point

Migratory birding at a classic local migrant trap. The big oaks and the lakeshore cypresses in the park, and the hardwoods along Lakeshore Drive, can be excellent places to observe migrant activity. Meet trip leader Bob Carroll at Powers Park to check the trees along the boat channel and scan the lake from the fishing pier before proceeding to Palm Point.

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 a.m.

Bellamy Road (Sign-up required.)

There should still be plenty of fall migrants around as we walk this quiet and historic country lane. Due to the scarcity of parking this trip is

limited to ten persons. Please call Wild Birds Unlimited to reserve your spot and get the meeting location (352-381-1997).

Saturday, October 29, 8:00 a.m.

Cone's Dike/Camps Canal

(Sign-up required.) With special limited access, enjoy a hike with Rex Rowan under the canopy along Camps Canal to the seldom-explored eastern end of Cone's Dike in Paynes Prairie. Enjoy late season neotropical migrants and early season sparrows. Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot.

Speakers Corner

Wednesday, November 16 – Bob and Erika Simons will present a video of a recent trip to Kenya. Highlights will include birds, other wildlife, and the people of Kenya. The Simons will share their video photography and stories. Place: Millhopper Library Meeting Room 3145 NW 43rd Avenue in Gainesville.

New Format: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Meet and Greet social time and announcements, program begins at 7:00 p.m.

New Wildflower Book

Wildflowers of Florida and the Southeast by David Hall and William Weber. This 819 page book is filled with photographs of 768 plants. It is the culmination of a 30-year effort by the authors. Ordering information: D.W. Hall, Wildflower Book, 8135 Meadowlark Court, Melrose, FL 32666; \$40.00 plus postage and handling \$8.00 USPS Media Mail. Credit card payments can be made via www.amazon.com by searching for the ISBN/EAN number: 978-0-614-39502-9

Colorado 2011 (Continued from Page 6)

target bird of our trip - Chestnut-collared Longspur. One was performing a display flight right over the road. We also watched a McCown's Longspur trying to fend off a pocket-gopher-like animal by hovering over it and dive-bombing it. We stopped at a shallow pond on the side of the road and found a Gadwall. Back at the campground, we found nesting Yellow Warblers and Vesper Sparrows.

We started our last day on the Pawnee by going to a pair of reservoirs. On the water there were many grebes; most were Clark's, but also a pair of Westerns. Mallards and Gadwalls were also on the water. Dad noticed our car had a low tire so we headed to the town of Galeton to get some air. On the way, we passed a farm pond where we found American Avocets and Cinnamon Teal. Later we headed toward Loveland, birding all along the way in the hope of finding a few more trip birds. I pointed out a hawk flying over CR 120, which turned out to be a Ferruginous - almost completely white front and tail. On the more weird side of things, we saw a species of Ring-necked Pheasant walking along the edge of a gravel road. I don't know what to think of this one - pheasants aren't known to live on the Pawnee. But the Ferruginous Hawk was a nice way to end our time on the grasslands.

The next morning we drove to Rocky Mountain National Park and began our first of three days here on Trail Ridge Road. It turns out that there was lots of snow here, especially above 10,000 feet, where there were drifts on the roadsides that were more than 6 feet tall. Our first stop along the road was Lava Cliffs Overlook, a spot that is good for Brown Capped Rosy-finches. Just over the stone wall on the overlook, a rosy-finch flew in. It foraged at the edge of the snow for a few seconds, posed for a couple of pictures, and then disappeared. As we continued along the road, numerous American Pipits were observed. Our next stop was Medicine Bow Curve. Here we noticed some people gathered around looking over the stone wall into the expanse of tundra. One of the people there

was a birder, who had found a White-tailed Ptarmigan. It was an amazing sight!! The bird was foraging among the rocks, but was so well camouflaged that we probably wouldn't have found it without help. For the rest of the day we saw the birds you would expect to see in RMNP: Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, Mountain and Western bluebirds, juncos, sparrows, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Pine Grosbeak, Dusky Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, etc.

At Sprague Lake the next morning, we saw Ring-necked Duck, an American Dipper, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At Glacier Basin Campground we found a Cordilleran Flycatcher nesting in the bathhouse. At the entrance to Beaver Meadows, we saw a Three-toed Woodpecker, and at the Alluvial Fan we saw a pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers and Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers, as well as eleven Bighorn Sheep. At the Fern Lake trailhead, we saw Warbling Vireo and a very active MacGillivray's Warbler. Black-throated Gray Warbler, Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, and hummingbirds and wrens galore were foraging and nesting around our campsite in Moraine Park Campground.

Our last full day in RMNP started off with attending the Beaver Meadows Bird Walk led by birder and experienced photographer Richard Hahn. He showed us all kinds of nests, including ones belonging to Dusky and Hammond's Flycatcher, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Mountain Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, Pygmy Nuthatches, Violet-green and Tree Swallow, Williamson's Sapsucker, American Robin, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, and Warbling Vireo. Dad spotted a Goshawk flying about six feet off the ground through the forest, and I found a Lazuli Bunting in the top of an aspen tree. As our last day of birding came to a close, we went to our campsite and prepared to leave.

At the end of our trip, we finished with 120 species in one week in two different counties.

Steven Goodman, 12

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The Crane
Sept.—Oct. 2011

Alachua Audubon Society is now on Facebook! Facebook users, visit <http://tinyurl.com/alachuaaudubon> and click “like” and you will be kept up to date on field trips, events, and more!

Join Audubon!

To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in application and mail to:

Paul Moler 7818 Highway 346 Archer, Florida 32618

Questions? Contact Paul 495-9419 or
paulmoler@bellsouth.net

Chapter E-18 New Membership Application **Not for renewals!**

Name: _____

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Address: _____

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Please check level of membership:

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Introductory Membership:

£ One Year \$20.00 £ Two Years \$30.00

Make check payable to National Audubon Society