



# The Crane

Volume 56 Number 1 September—October 2014

## September and October Field Trips

*Included in this Crane Newsletter is a separate brochure that summarizes the Annual Field Trip Schedule of all planned Alachua Audubon field trips for the 2014/2015 season. The Annual Field Trip Schedule can also be downloaded on the Alachua Audubon Website ([Alachuaaudubon.org](http://Alachuaaudubon.org)) or obtained from Wild Birds Unlimited.*

**Saturday, September 13, 8:30**

**Poe Springs County Park (new AAS field trip destination):** Poe Springs is a lovely county park that is located on the bank of the Santa Fe River. Join us for a look at one of the better warbler spots in the county. Never any guarantees, but Canada, Golden-winged, Kentucky, and Cerulean Warblers have been recorded here. It's a bit of a drive but usually worth it, especially since the county has dropped the admission fee. It can be a bit muddy in places, so waterproof footwear or old shoes are recommended. Meet Mike Manetz at the Tag Agency (NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street just south of US-441) and carpool together to Poe Springs. Difficulty: 2

**Sunday, September 14, 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 during this period of migration. Difficulty: 2

**Saturday, September 20, All Day**

**Fall 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 fall migration. If you can identify most migrants and would like to help with the Alachua County count, please contact Mike Manetz at [mmanetz@yahoo.com](mailto:mmanetz@yahoo.com) or 352-316-0981. Difficulty: 3

**Sunday, September 21, 10:30 a.m.**

**Cedar Key by boat with Capt. Doug Maple (Sign up required):** Meet Alachua Audubon Vice President, Scott Flamand, for 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—seen at fairly close range. Cost is reduced to \$25 per person for the boat ride. Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot on the boat and for the meeting location. Space is limited. Difficulty: 1

**Saturday, September 27, 6:30 a.m.**

**Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge:** Meet trip leader John Hintermister at the Target parking lot (on Archer Road) for a full day of birding at several locations within the Lower Suwannee NWR. Likely stops will be Shired Island, Dixie Mainland Trail, Fishbone Creek, and Salt Creek. A large diversity of shorebirds, waders, and migrant songbirds are likely to be spotted. Bring water, lunch, and bug repellent. Difficulty: 2

*(Continued on Page 10)*

**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 National Audubon dues. See back page for subscription information. Submissions to **The Crane** are welcomed. **The Crane** is printed on recycled paper.

**Deadline for  
Nov-Dec Crane:  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**



There's always something for birders to do around here. No sooner does the June Challenge end than fall migration begins! This year it began July 5th when Lloyd Davis found our first returning Louisiana Waterthrush at La Chua Trail. By the middle of July there were a string of Black-and-white Warbler re-

ports, and toward the end of July several other warbler species had checked in. Deena Mickelson found a Prairie Warbler July 27th near Lake Alice; John Hintermister had our first American Redstart in his yard on the 29th, and on the 31st he scored our first Kentucky Warbler at Poe Springs. Keith Collingwood noted several Yellow Warblers along Sparrow Alley at La Chua Trail on August 1st, and on the 7th at Bolen Bluff Trail, Matt O' Sullivan found our first Worm-eating Warbler...a fairly early date for that one. Also at Bolen, Matt spotted and photographed a dark-phase Short-tailed Hawk.

Our local shorebird migration is very much dependent on water levels. Fortunately, early this fall we had a couple of places worth checking. The Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Wetland (projected to open to the public in December) has difficult and limited access, but Rex Rowan and Matt O'Sullivan found a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on August 10th, only the third record in the county. John Killian was there later and noted our first Black Terns of the season, and when Debbie Segal checked on the 16th, she found 33 Black Terns. The Ewing family took a look at the Hague Dairy on August 14th and discovered a flooded field full of birds off the northwest corner of the lagoon. Among them were seven species of shorebirds, including locally very uncommon Stilt Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers. This same spot yielded a Wilson's Phalarope and Short-billed Dowitcher last August, and hopefully by the end of the month other interesting shorebirds will be discovered there.

I had quite a surprise August 11 when, having just returned from out of town, I discovered an adult male Rufous Hummingbird hovering and peering through the window where I usually hang a feeder! We had an immature Rufous in the yard last winter coming to that very spot, and had hummingbird expert Fred Bassett band it. This "new" bird has a band too, so it's not an unreasonable assumption that this is the same bird.

By the time this issue of the Crane reaches your mailbox or inbox, fall migration will be in full swing. A whole new suite of warblers will be possible, including Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and Chestnut-sided, to name a few. Veerys should be coming in, too. What a great time to have a Fall Migration Count! In fact, we do have such a count, September 20th this year, and if you are at least of intermediate skill level and would like to participate, please email me at [mmanetz@yahoo.com](mailto:mmanetz@yahoo.com). Thanks to those who shared their sightings through August 16, 2014.

## AAS Birding Programs

**September 17—Research and Discovery in South Florida’s Mangroves: Unlocking the Secret of the Mangrove Cuckoo;** Rachel Mullin of Ecostudies Institute, will describe the ecology and life history of Mangrove Cuckoos at J. N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Using miniature radio-transmitters, the Institute tracks individual birds throughout the year to better understand their habitat requirements and seasonal movements. The social begins at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:00 pm at the Millhopper Library Meeting Room, 3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville.

**October 15—Sharing Nature Through Photography;** Katherine Edison will show how easy, effective, and fun it is to use photography as a teaching tool. She will present creative ways to use photography and will provide examples of easy project ideas and some basic photography pointers. The social begins at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:00 pm at the Millhopper Library Meeting Room, 3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville.

**November 10—Peru’s Birding Rally Challenge;** Adam Kent will describe this competitive birding event designed to raise awareness about Peru’s diverse bird life. Adam participated in the southern Rally in 2013 and the northern Rally in 2014. Learn about some of the best places to bird in South America and see amazing photos of beautiful birds with names like Royal Sunangel and Marvelous Spatuletail. The social begins at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:00 pm at the Millhopper Library Meeting Room, 3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, Gainesville.

## Community Calendar

**September 20-Florida Friendly Landscape and Garden Tour,** 8:15 am to 1 pm. The event starts at 8:15 am at the Thelma Boltin Center, 516 NE 2nd Ave for registration, exhibits, handouts, maps, and a presentation. Following the presentation will be a free self-guided tour of yards in the historic Duck Pond neighborhood. Pre-registration is recommended by calling [352 337-6209](tel:352-337-6209) or [352 955-2402](tel:352-955-2402) for information. Parking is limited so car-pooling/cycling/walking is encouraged. Guided by Alachua County Master Gardener volunteers and presented by the UF/IFAS Alachua County Extension Office. *Visit Alachua Audubon’s booth at the Garden Tour.*

**Oct. 3rd and 4th—Florida Native Plant Society Fall Native Plant Sale at Morningside Nature Center,** Native plants, wildflower seeds, and nature photography. Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for members of Florida Native Plant Society and Friends of Nature Parks (you can join when you get there!). Saturday from 8:30 to 12:30 is open to the public. More information at [352-334-3326](tel:352-334-3326) or [www.natureoperations.org](http://www.natureoperations.org)

**Oct. 25th—Lubee Bat Conservancy 8th Annual Bat Festival,** 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. 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.*

## AAS Leads the Fight to "Keep the Barr Open"

Great progress has been made to educate and inform the County Commission on the needs and desires of our community to keep the Barr Hammock Trail open in its entirety. Thanks to all of you who responded to our first call for action, and thank you in advance for your continued actions as we try to convince the County Commissioners to **Keep the Barr Open**. If you are not familiar with the Barr Hammock issue, you can read the op-ed that was published recently in the Gainesville Sun on Pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

The commissioners ARE listening. Together with Alachua County Environmental Protection Department staff, Alachua Audubon's Bob Simons and Debbie Segal toured the Barr Hammock Trail with Commissioner Charles Chestnut and then with Commissioner Lee Pinkoson. During the two site tours, both commissioners appeared to understand the exaggerated claims of disturbances made by the adjacent landowners and how unreasonable and disruptive it would be to close a segment of the trail.

On August 10th, Alachua Audubon's Felicia Lee and Joni Ellis attended the Candidates Forum and handed out the **Keep the Barr Open** stickers that Alachua Audubon recently had printed. The County Commission candidates were each asked what their position was regarding Barr Hammock. Candidates Ken Cornell, Harvey Ward, and Kevin Thorpe all favor keeping Barr Hammock open in its entirety. At the



time of the forum, which occurred prior to his site visit, Commissioner Pinkoson was not clear on his position. Hopefully the site visit and your calls, letters, emails, and office visits will convince him of the need to keep the trail open in its entirety.

Both Commissioner Chestnut and Pinkoson need to keep hearing from you with letters, emails, phone calls, and office visits. We need your help to keep the momentum going to ensure that the selfish desires of a few landowners do not result in the public's loss of the north side of Barr Hammock.

Please read the items below and see if there is something you can do to help us convince the County Commission that Barr Hammock was purchased with public dollars, it belongs to the public, and it should stay open in its entirety for the public's enjoyment.

1. The County Commission meeting to discuss the fate of the Barr Hammock Trail has been postponed to October 14th. **Please help us pack the meeting room.** We will be handing out the newly printed "Keep the Barr Open" stickers for all supporters to wear. We want the commission to see how much support there is to keeping the trail open.
2. The County Commission has received over 100 letters and emails that oppose closing the trail. Continue sending letters and emails to the commission at [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us)
3. Submit an abbreviated version (<150 words) of the letter or email that you sent to the commission to the Gainesville Sun. A few short editorials printed each week will keep the subject alive. Here is the link to submit to the GNV Sun.  
[http://www.gainesville.com/article/99999999/MULTIMEDIA/69514377?template=art\\_plain](http://www.gainesville.com/article/99999999/MULTIMEDIA/69514377?template=art_plain)
4. Schedule to meet with Commissioner Chestnut, Pinkoson, and/or Baird and tell them in person how important it is to keep the Barr Hammock Trail open in its entirety. You can schedule the meeting through Devin or LaToya at [352-264-6900](tel:352-264-6900). We are grateful that Commissioners Byerly and Hutchinson are committed to keeping the trail fully accessible for the public's enjoyment.
5. Forward this message to your list of contacts and help us keep up the momentum to **Keep the Barr Open**.

## **Barr Hammock Trail Closure – Not for the Public Good**

*(Printed in the Gainesville Sun; July 20, 2014)*

Alachua County purchased the 5,719-acre Barr Hammock Preserve using public funds “to protect, preserve, and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources and to provide an enjoyable and educational passive recreational experience”. However, several home owners are asking the Board of County Commissioners to close a section of the Levy Loop Trail at Barr Hammock that runs behind their houses.

The 6.5-mile Levy Loop Trail is the only recreationally-accessible feature at Barr Hammock. This trail guides hikers, bicyclists, bird watches, nature photographers, and others along a raised levee around the scenic marsh. Taking the north levee route counter clockwise around Levy Prairie allows a quick retreat into the tranquil surroundings, where the roar of I-75 is quickly replaced by serene sounds and an extensive prairie vista. Alternatively, taking the south levee route in a clockwise direction, which for the first segment parallels I-75, traverses a forested segment of Barr Hammock and delays both viewing the extensive prairie vista and escaping the intrusive interstate noises.

To complete the entire 6.5-mile loop requires both endurance and stamina. Consequently, many visitors walk out a comfortable distance along the north levee to quickly escape the intrusive interstate noise and reach the attractive view. Certainly families with small children and those who are physically challenged limit their trek to the most desirable north levee segment.

It is hard to believe that our County Commission would consider closing a 0.2-mile segment of the north levee because a few adjacent land owners have complained and threatened legal action because they occasionally see and hear visitors who use the trail. These houses are 200 feet or more from the trail, and

are obscured by vegetation.

County environmental staff has met numerous times with land owners to address their concerns. A special meeting of the County Commission was convened on July 1<sup>st</sup> to address the conflict between the land owners who are requesting closure of a segment of the trail, and County staff who advocate keeping the entire trail open to the public. The meeting concluded with County Commissioners directing staff to reach a compromise with the land owners within 90 days. Compromises proposed by staff include planting more vegetation between the trail and houses for greater privacy, and installing more signage asking visitors to respect the privacy of nearby landowners. Compromise proposed by the land owners is to open the 0.2-mile trail segment to the public for one day each quarter.

Alachua Audubon opposes closing this 0.2-mile segment of the loop trail along the north levee and preventing the public from accessing the most sought-out section of the trail. If the County approves the home owners’ requests, those wishing to bike or hike the entire trail will traverse 6.3 miles of trail, starting at the south levee, and upon reaching the gate marking the closed segment, reverse direction and repeat the just-completed 6.3 miles. While the 6.5-mile trail is challenging to complete in its entirety, a 12.6-mile trail will only be completed by the most physically fit. Thus, closure of 0.2-miles of the loop trail essentially closes far more of the trail to the general public.

The Alachua Audubon Society leads several bird watching field trips annually around this jewel of a birding hotspot. By closing the 0.2-mile segment, those field trips will become walking about 3 miles along the south levee trail, reversing, and repeating the southern 3-mile segment. The entire northern half of Barr Hammock becomes inaccessible for those field trips and for scores of other visitors. Ironically, Alachua Audubon spoke out against allowing duck hunting at Barr Hammock a few years ago, and advocated keeping the preserve open to passive and quiet *(continued on Page 6)*



## Barr Hammock Trail Closure (continued from page 5)

recreational activities. The adjacent land owners should be grateful that shotguns are not blasting at dawn and hunters are not accessing their hunting grounds with airboats.

Public lands purchased with public funds should be kept open for the public's enjoyment. Imagine the precedent that might be set if the county succumbs to this unreasonable request. Will adjacent landowners who are inconvenienced by equestrians riding on the horse trails at San Felasco Hammock, or neighbors whose property backs up to the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail also request closure?

If you are opposed to the unreasonable requests of a few land owners to close a 0.2-mile segment of the Levy Loop Trail for their privacy and exclusive use, you should be. But don't be silent. Please join Alachua Audubon by vocalizing your support for keeping the entire loop trail open to the public. Please write a letter or email to the County Commissioners at [bocc@alachuacounty.us](mailto:bocc@alachuacounty.us) - especially to Commissioners Baird, Chestnut, and Pinkoson, who suggested during the July 1<sup>st</sup> public meeting that they favor partial trail closure. Consider meeting one-on-one with those three Commissioners to emphasize the public's right to keep this trail open in its entirety. And be sure to attend the August 12<sup>th</sup> County Commission meeting when the fate of the Barr Hammock Levy Loop Trail will likely be decided.

The Alachua Audubon Society  
Anne Casella, President  
Debra Segal and Bob Simons, Board Members

*Note: Discussion of Barr Hammock has been postponed to the October 14th County Commission meeting.*

## Birding Classes Offered

Santa Fe College's (SFC) Community Education Program in collaboration with The Alachua Audubon Society (AAS) is offering a 4-week course in Field Identification of Birds. The next class begins September 13th and continues for three consecutive Saturdays (Sept. 13, 20, 27, and Oct. 4th). The final class will be a longer trip to Cedar Key. Each class will be led by a local birding expert and will benefit both beginning birders and more advanced birders. Cost for this four day class is \$49 and generates revenue for AAS. We will visit local natural areas to identify birds in their native habitat.

Registration is through SFC. For more information and registration go online to SFC Community Education or call (352) 395-5193. These courses continue to receive great reviews. Limit 12 students, so register early as they fill quickly. Hope to see you in class!

Barbara Fennelly, Class Coordinator

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Aerial photograph above of the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Wetland taken on August 5, 2014. Cells 2 and 3 have been constructed and planted with wetland plants. At the time of this photograph, Cell 1 was being planted. Note the constructed islands and boardwalks in Cell 1. The boardwalks and berms that encircle all three cells will be open for public access. Look closely at the shape of the wetland. Can you see the formation of an alligator head? Cells 2 and 3 form the snout and a line of teeth are visible through the middle of both cells.

### **Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Wetland Nearing Completion**

Construction began in 2012 to build the largest water quality improvement project in Alachua County's history. The Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Wetland is designed to improve water quality of stormwater and treated wastewater that has historically flowed down Sweetwater Branch, through Paynes Prairie, and discharged to Alachua Sink. When completed, stormwater and wastewater will slowly filter through the three constructed wetland cells (Cells 1, 2, and 3), where nutrients and pollutants will be removed, and then discharge in a sheetflow manner onto Paynes Prairie where the treated water

will hydrologically enhance roughly 1,300 acres of Paynes Prairie wetlands.

Project completion is targeted for January, 2015 but continues to be contingent on weather conditions that impact construction. Once completed, the Sheetflow Wetland will be opened to the public, although initially on a limited schedule until site management plans are finalized.

The Sheetflow Wetland has been attracting high numbers and a wide diversity of bird species, even while construction has been occurring. Once completed and opened to the public, the Sheetflow Wetland will be Alachua County's newest birding hotspot. And look for it to be added to the Great Florida Birding Trail!



## June Challenge Results

Fifty participants combed the woods, fields, and waterways in Alachua County during June looking for birds to add to their June Challenge list. As a result of this massive effort, a whopping 128 species were tallied. Congratulations to EVERYONE who braved the June heat and joined us in seeing and appreciating our beautiful summer birds. And the winners of the June Challenge were:

1st Place (116 species) Maralee Joos and Danny Shehee; 2nd Place (113 species) Lloyd Davis; 3rd Place (111 species) Chris Cattau; 4th Place (109 species) Barbara Shea; 5th Place (107 species) Howard Adams and Bob Simons.



Photograph of June Challenge winners, Danny Shehee and Maralee Joos, holding the trophy that they will alternate sharing until the 2015 June Challenge. Photograph taken by Katherine Edison.

## Kids In The Woods

Kids today spend twice as much time indoors as their parents did, missing out on the simple pleasures and physical benefits of daily outdoor time. With a grant from the U.S. Forest Service, *Kids In the Woods* is dedicated to providing resources and creative ideas for increasing the amount of time kids spend outdoors. The goal of this two year program is to introduce Westwood Middle school students to a science curriculum that is connected to outdoor experiences in the nearby Loblolly Nature Park. These projects include birds, trees and water.

Annie Hermansen-Baez, from the USDA Forest Service is the *Kids In the Woods* Project Director. Annie asked Alachua Audubon to help her sustain this project beyond the two-year grant. Audubon will partner on the birding activities, provide bird seed, and volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sharon Kuchinski at [Sharonsmk@gmail.com](mailto:Sharonsmk@gmail.com). Volunteers are needed for the bird walks.

## FWC Soliciting Stakeholders for Orange Lake Management Plans

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) is planning a large stakeholder meeting in late September to identify issues that stakeholders think need to be addressed within the Orange Creek Basin (e.g. lakes Orange, Lochloosa, Newnans). Subsequent stakeholder meetings will be schedule to discuss specific issues, such as vegetation control at Orange Lake.

Last year, Alachua Audubon met with FWC and expressed opposition to their plan to herbicide approximately 1,500 acres (over two square miles) of native wetland vegetation in Orange Lake in order to improve lake access and boating safety. As recognized stakeholders, AAS and Audubon Florida objected to FWC's herbicide plan due to its wide-spread destruction of wildlife habitat, its apparent disregard for known wading bird rookery islands, its potential for creating an "oxygen demand" that could kill invertebrates and fish, lack of a monitoring plan, and likely only temporary benefits for the intended users.

If you would like to be included in the upcoming stakeholder meetings, please contact Bruce Jaggars at FWC at [bruce.jaggars@myfwc.com](mailto:bruce.jaggars@myfwc.com)



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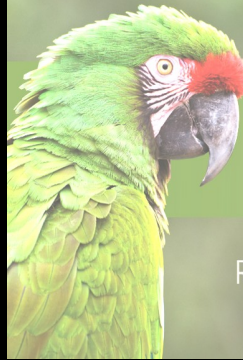
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*Field Trips (continued from page 1)*

**Sunday, September 28, 8 a.m.**

**Barr Hammock—CLEP:** Meet Michael Drummond of the county's DEP at the Sunoco gas station in Micanopy on US-441 and carpool to Barr Hammock. The majestic Barr Hammock forms a land bridge between Ledwith and Levy Prairies, and is a county jewel that provides habitat for a wide diversity of upland and wetland species. Difficulty: 2

**Saturday, October 4, 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. Bring water and bug repellent. Lunch will be at Caps on the Inland Waterway. Difficulty: 2

**Sunday, October 5, 8:00 a.m.**

**Powers Park and Palm Point:** This fieldtrip will provide migratory birding at a classic local migrant trap. The big oaks and lakeshore cypresses at Powers Park, and hardwoods along Lakeshore Drive can be excellent places to observe migrant activity. Meet trip leader Barbara Shea at Powers Park to check the trees along the boat channel and scan the lake from the fishing pier before proceeding to Palm Point. Difficulty: 1

**Saturday, October 11, 8:00 a.m.**

**O'Leno State Park:** Phil Laipis will lead us through this beautiful park on the Santa Fe River in search of warblers, tanagers, and other fall migrants. Meet at the Winn-Dixie parking lot north of the traffic light on US-441 in High Springs, and carpool to O'Leno State Park. Admission \$5.00 per vehicle. Difficulty: 2

**Sunday, October 12, 8:00 a.m.**

**Bolen Bluff Trail:** Meet trip leader Jonathon Mays 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 songbird migration. Difficulty: 2

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

**San Felasco Hammock – Progress Center:** Meet trip leader Rex Rowan at the tag agency (NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street just south of US-441) and carpool together. Admission fee \$4.00 per vehicle. We'll cover a variety of habitats in this walk, including marsh, field, habitat edges, deciduous forest, and Cellon Creek. Difficulty: 2

**Sunday, October 19, 6:30 a.m.**

**Suwannee River State Park (new AAS field trip destination):** Meet trip leader Bob Carroll at the tag agency (NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street just south of US-441) and carpool to the Suwannee River State Park, which is located at the confluence of the Suwannee and Withlacochee Rivers. Bring water, lunch, and bug spray. Difficulty: 2

**Saturday, October 25, 8 a.m.**

**Levy Lake Loop at Barr Hammock:** Meet fieldtrip leader Adam Zions for birding around the 5,700-acre preserve of marsh and wet prairie. To reach the trailhead, drive south on US-441 from Gainesville. Just before Micanopy and across from Lake Wauberg, turn right on Wacahoota Road. Go roughly 1 mile and just after the I-75 overpass, turn left on SE 11th Dr. Continue south on SE 11th Dr. to the preserve trailhead and parking area. Difficulty: 3+

**Sunday, October 26, 6:00 a.m.**

**Road to Nowhere and Hagen's Cove:** Meet trip leader, John Hintermister, at the Tag Agency and carpool to the Big Bend Wildlife Management Area for a full day of birding. The first destination will be the Road to Nowhere—a 12-mile road that traverses salt marsh, coastal hammocks, pine, and oak stands. A large diversity of birds can often be seen along this remote

road. The next stop will be Hagen's Cove where shorebirds, wading birds (including Reddish Egrets), and migrant landbirds can all be observed. Bring water, bug repellent, and lunch. Difficulty: 2

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

**Palm Point Addition/CLEP (new AAS field trip destination):** The City recently acquired over 100 acres of land and nearly a mile of shoreline to add to the popular Palm Point birding spot. We'll hike up to "Palm Point Hill" and discuss opportunities for future nature-based recreation on the new property. Meet trip leader, Geoff Parks, at the Morningside Nature Center parking lot and carpool to Palm Point. Difficulty: 2.

**Sunday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.**

**Cones Dike at Paynes Prairie:** Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot on this space-limited hike to Cones Dike with field trip leader, Howard Adams. Difficulty: 3



Photograph of a King Rail taken by Rob Garren at La Chua Trail.

**Don't miss the 2014  
Audubon Assembly  
*Conservation Event of the Year*  
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Connect with like-minded individuals at Florida's *premiere* conservation event and make 2014 a BIG YEAR for Florida's land, water, and wildlife! Audubon Florida is proud to announce that Leslie Kemp Poole, author of *Saving Florida: Women's Fight for the Environment in the 20th Century* will be this year's keynote speaker!

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To register by mail or by phone, contact Jonathan Webber at [850-222-2473](tel:850-222-2473).



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*The Crane*  
Sept.—Oct. 2014

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(For Chapter Only, receive the local Crane Newsletter but no National or State Publication)

For Chapter Only, make check payable to  
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Questions? Contact Paul 352-495-9419 or  
[paulmoler@bellsouth.net](mailto:paulmoler@bellsouth.net)