



# The Crane

Volume 52 Number 2 November-December 2010

## November and December Field Trips

### **Saturday, November 6, 8:00 a.m.**

Hague Dairy: Meet Mike Manetz at the Tag Agency on NW 34th Street near US-441 to caravan to one of the county's best spots for sparrows, blackbirds, and raptors. Diff: 1

### **Saturday, November 13, 7:00 a.m.**

Hamilton County mines: FULL DAY TRIP! Meet at the Tag Agency on NW 34th Street near US-441 and caravan to join trip leader Jerry Krummrich in White Springs. We'll explore a series of freshwater impoundments for ducks and other water birds, and look for sparrows in the fields and brushy margins. Diff: 2

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

Tusawilla Prairie – CLEP Trip: Meet Ivor Kincaide in the parking lot of the Sweetbay grocery store (2003 NW 34th Street) to carpool to the Tusawilla Prairie south of Micanopy. There are usually waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, and several species of sparrows, most often Swamp and Savannah (though Lincoln's, Le Conte's and Henslow's have been recorded). Diff: 2

### **Sunday, November 28, 8:00 a.m.**

La Chua Trail: Table your bias against sparrows and get a fresh start with Bubba Scales at Paynes Prairie's La Chua Trail. Meet at the trailhead on Camp Ranch Road. La Chua is one of the area's best spots for close study of a variety of sparrows and other brush-loving birds as well as wintering flycatchers, raptors, waterfowl, and freshly-arrived Sandhill Cranes. Diff: 3

### **Sunday, December 5, 6:30 a.m.**

Cedar Key: Meet Rex Rowan in the Target parking lot. Cedar Key is a quintessential Florida birding destination where birders can often view shorebirds over one shoulder and songbirds over the other. Participants may want to stay in Cedar Key for lunch. Diff: 2

### **Saturday, December 11, 8:00 a.m.**

Kanapaha Prairie: Meet Rex Rowan in the Target parking lot. The Kanapaha Prairie is an 804-acre former pasture dotted with marshy ponds and ringed with huge live oaks. It is home to the county's second-largest flock of Sandhill Cranes. Numerous other birds enjoy its open spaces as well, such as Eastern Meadowlark, Killdeer, American Kestrel, shorebirds, and waterfowl. It is normally off limits to the general public but AAS has special permission for this trip. Diff: 2

### **Sunday, December 19, SPECIAL EVENT**

Christmas Bird Count. Call John Hintermister (386-462-1109) to discuss details if you are interested in participating in this all-day event.

**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

Alachua Audubon Officers &  
Chairpersons of  
Standing Committees

President .....	Helen Warren	214-7755
Vice President.....	Scott Flaman	
Secretary.....	Anne Casella	378-0505
Treasurer .....	Dotty Robbins	386-454-8087
Membership.....	Paul Moler	495-9419
Field Trips.....	Bubba Scales	381-1997
Education .....	Emily Schwartz	372-0754
Birding Classes.....	Kathy Haines	372-8942
Festivals .....	Helen Warren	214-7755
Conservation.....	Adam Kent	314-609-5513
Crane Editor .....	Debbie Segal	386-418-8391
Submittals: dsegal@wetlandsolutionsinc.com		
Advertising .....	Ivor Kincaid	377-6253
	Cecelia Lockwood	281-7659
Historian .....	Martha King	372-4149
Website .....	Rex Rowan	371-9296
Yearbook .....	Bob Carroll	372-6698
Crane Circulation .....	Erica Simons, Alice Tyler, And Pat Burns	
AAS Website.....	www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud	

***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 the editor and fulfills stated objectives and goals of Alachua Audubon Society. 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  
Jan-Feb Crane:  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**

## ***Around The County...***

***By Mike Manetz***

The full measure of this fall migration is difficult to convey in a few paragraphs, but it was interesting and eventful enough that I accept the challenge with pleasure. It started with a couple of new early records for the county. On July 8 Geoff Parks sighted our earliest Prairie Warbler to date, and Tom Staley reported our earliest-ever American Redstart July 16. By the first days of August, Yellow, Worm-eating and Black-and-white Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush had checked in, and it was suddenly possible to have a ten-warbler species day. One of the best birds of early fall was a singing Swainson's Warbler found August 14 at Bolen Bluff by Felicia Lee. Kentucky Warblers, while not exactly rare here in fall, were unusually plentiful. A single outing down Bellamy Road September 11 yielded four of them, and numerous birders from Newnans Lake and Bolen Bluff reported multiples as well. Lloyd Davis had our first Golden-winged Warbler at Bolen Bluff August 28, and Tom Hctor spotted our first Cerulean Warbler September 6 along Lakeshore Drive. Both are prized birds of early fall. The week-end before the Fall Migration Count was quite productive, with seventeen warbler species reported from Palm Point.

The Fall Count seemed to signal a sudden lull in the middle of migration, with several teams expressing disappointment with their totals; but as usually happens, the collective effort was still impressive, with 129 species recorded, including 23 species of warblers. Except for the sighting of a pair of American Avocets by the Alachua Audubon birding class at Newnans Lake September 25, the two weeks that followed the count were decidedly quiet. A slow-moving cold front had bottled up birds behind it, and then stalled over us for several days. On September 29 the clouds thinned enough to let a few birds through, most notably an Olive-sided Flycatcher that made a two-minute appearance at the top of a tree in my NW Gainesville yard. Across town the same afternoon Adam and Gina Kent experienced a small warbler-fallout in their yard, combined with a stream of migrating Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, and Broad-winged Hawks, plus a Merlin sailing by overhead.

Once the front pushed past us the bird-rush was on. Caleb Gordon, who has been taking backyard birding to a new level by monitoring the pre-dawn flight calls of overhead migrants, tallied October 1 what he called the best night of thrush migration he has ever experienced. Passing over his yard he counted an amazing 665 Swainson's, 94 Gray-cheeked, and 11 Wood Thrushes, plus an assortment of warblers, Indigo Buntings, Bobolinks, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. That day, Rex Rowan and Matt Hafner found a Blackpoll War-

bler, Common Tern, and Peregrine Falcon at Palm Point, all uncommon to rare here in fall. At Bolen Bluff Geoff Parks and Peter Polshek sighted a Canada Warbler. Steve Meredith had a Painted Bunting at Palm Point and I found one in my yard. What followed was one of the nicest birding weekends of the fall. Steve and Ted Goodman had 18 warbler species at Palm Point. I checked Progress Center that morning and Palm Point in the afternoon and combined for 20 warbler species. There were widespread reports of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks as well. The following week birds continued to come through. John Hintermister, Steve Nesbitt, and Jim Brady birded Palm Point and Prairie Creek Preserve October 4 and found a rare-in-fall Black-billed Cuckoo, along with 15 warblers species, including a whopping 41 Redstarts. John and Steve checked Bolen Bluff the following day and incredibly found a second Black-billed Cuckoo! John has been on a wildly successful quest to see as many birds in Florida this calendar year and the cuckoo was his State year-bird number 343.

Winter birds such as Eastern Phoebe, House Wren, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker were coming in all along, but fall migration was not quite over at the time of this writing. In fact, the middle weeks of October are often the richest of fall, and the first ten days of November are prime time for a number of western strays including several species of flycatchers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Clay-colored Sparrow. A good example was a Groove-billed Ani, only the tenth ever reported in the county, that was found October 16 at the La Chua Trail platform by Adam Kent and Craig Faulhaber. This individual stuck around for several days and was still present at the time of this writing. Hopefully I will have more great sightings like this to report in the next issue of the Crane. Thanks to those who shared their sightings through October 22.



## 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 this year as a 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 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Buying your tree sight-unseen

Tree and wreath pickup place, date, and time TBA

To order, please send an e-mail to [alporvas@gmail.com](mailto:alporvas@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
Douglas Fir	\$42	\$46	\$53	\$57	\$67	\$98	24" wreath	\$40
Grand Fir	\$50	\$56	\$64	\$74	N/A	N/A		
Fraser Fir	\$52	\$58	\$66	\$75	\$88	\$116		
Concolor Fir	\$52	\$58	\$66	\$75	\$88	\$116		
Balsam Fir	\$50	\$56	\$64	\$74	\$88	\$116		

To view the trees and the farm, go to [www.swva.net/tbd](http://www.swva.net/tbd)

## **AAS CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER 2010**

AAS wishes to thank all who have supported this important fund raiser. With the money raised we have started birding programs for kids, purchased binoculars and birding books, and supported local conservation efforts. Thank you!!!!

Our Fifth Annual Christmas Tree sale is now in full swing. Please order your Christmas trees and wreaths by **November 8th**. Contact Stacy Porvasnik at [slporvas@gmail.com](mailto:slporvas@gmail.com). Pickup date will be **December 5th**.

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](http://www.swva.net/tbd).

The trees are comparably priced with other locally-available trees, but not as expensive as many parking lot vendors. 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 four years in a row. Please consider buying a Christmas tree and/or wreath from AAS. And please tell your friends and family members!

### **Thank you to our Sponsors for the Audubon Adventures Program**

We wish to heartily thank our 2010-2011 school year sponsors who have provided Audubon Adventures for local elementary school classrooms. This environmental program supports the mission of Audubon with children. Thank you to: Carol Alderson, Mary Louise Brey, Jane Brockmann, Mary Lou Eitzman, Sara and K. M. Eoff, Karen Johnson, Adam Kent, Martha E. King, Mary Landsman, Barbra Larson, Phil Laipis, Kate Lee, Paul Moler, Barbara S. Mollison, Mrs. and Mrs. Earle Muschlitz, Ann Paul and Martha F. Pilcher in memory of their mother Barbara Fearney, Susan S. Rout, Claire and Betty Schelske, John R. Sharpe, Debra Segal, Helen Warren, Scott Flamand, Lawrence and Celeste Kroll, and John Winn.

## **Would You Like to Receive the Crane Electronically?**

Starting with the next Crane newsletter, you will have the option of receiving the Crane electronically rather than receiving a mailed paper copy. The reason for this change is two-fold. First, we are an organization focused on conservation and by reducing our use of paper and all the energy and resources that go into the paper, printing, and mailing - we will inch closer towards our conservation goal. Second, we will save money by reducing the number of newsletters we print and mail. This is money that can be better spent towards bird-related activities.

The benefits to receiving the Crane electronically (in addition to those noted above) are that you can view the Crane in color (color photos are so much better) and you can more easily share the Crane with other birding enthusiasts.

If you choose to receive the Crane electronically, we will not bombard you with emails. Typically you will receive only one email per newsletter and the email will contain a link to the Alachua Audubon Website. Simply click on the link and you will have your newsletter. Your email address will not be given to anyone and there will always be an unsubscribe option.

To start receiving the Crane electronically, simply send an email to [thecrane@bellsouth.net](mailto:thecrane@bellsouth.net). In the subject line put the word Newsletter. Please include your complete name and address (as shown on the mailing label on the back page of this Crane newsletter). If you wish to continue receiving a mailed paper copy of the Crane, simply do nothing and delivery of your copy of the Crane will not change.

## Community Calendar

Nov 2 Native Plant Society planning meeting

Nov 6 Sierra Club Ardisia pull, San Felasco Hammock

Nov 16 Native Plant Society program meeting

Nov 23 Native Plant Society field trip

Dec 2 Friends of Paynes Prairie annual meeting

Dec 4 Sierra Club Ardisia pull, San Felasco Hammock

Dec 21 Native Plant Society program meeting

Florida Native Plant Society, Paynes Prairie Chapter:

<http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php>

Friends of Paynes Prairie:

<http://www.prairiefriends.org/calendar.html>

Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. Johns Chapter:

<http://florida.sierraclub.org/ssj/outings.htm>

**BLUE HIGHWAY**  
a pizzeria  
Eat Well, Live Well...  
Check us out. A short ride down Highway 441, just south of the yellow flashing light, in Micanopy. For some of the finest food you'll find anywhere.

Open **Tue-Sat 11:30-9:00,**  
**Sun 12-8:00 / (352) 466-0062**

- Hand-crafted brick-oven pizza & calzones
- Gorgeous salads
- Gourmet sandwiches
- Home-made desserts
- A fine selection of beers, wines & sodas

## Community Calendar

### Speakers Corner

Wednesday, November 3 at *Millhopper Library*, 7:00 p.m. "Sparrows" by Adam Kent. Identifications tips and techniques - back by popular demand!

## 5th Annual Holiday Social

**Friday, Dec. 10 at  
Wild Birds Unlimited  
6:30—9:00 pm**

Come share a passion for birds with us! In addition to having an evening of fun, this is also one of our big fund raisers thru the silent auction. We will also have a special guest speaker, silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages. If you own a business, provide a service, create cool art, or have items to donate for the silent auction, please contact Stacy Porvasnik, 352-359-7441; or Helen Warren, 352-214-7755.

### Sunday, December 19 — All Day Christmas Bird Count

Those interested in attending should contact John Hintermister at (352-316-2396 [jhintermister@gmail.com](mailto:jhintermister@gmail.com)) or Howard Adams (352-665-3716 [HOWARDPPSP@aol.com](mailto:HOWARDPPSP@aol.com)) by Dec. 10th.



# JUNGLE BIRDERS

First birding agency owned and operated by native Amazonians

Amazing Birds, Incredible Landscapes

Outstanding Guided Tours



[www.JungleBirders.com](http://www.JungleBirders.com)



HELEN WARREN  
REALTOR®

ERA Trend Realty  
4141 NW 37th Place, Suite A  
Gainesville, FL 32606

(352) 377-6666 Office  
(352) 378-2470 Fax  
(352) 214-7755 Cell  
E-Mail: [hwarren@eratrend.com](mailto:hwarren@eratrend.com)  
Website: [www.eratrend.com](http://www.eratrend.com)



## Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed • Feeders • Nesting Boxes • Nature Gifts • Optics

4215 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Blvd Gainesville

352-381-1997

[gainesville.wbu.com](http://gainesville.wbu.com)

[gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com](mailto:gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com)

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



Green Energy Options

*Creating your efficient, sustainable home*

Kevin Veach  
Comprehensive Energy Audits  
Home energy efficiency, safety and  
indoor air quality analysis

(352) 672-2233  
[kveach@gmail.com](mailto:kveach@gmail.com)  
[www.greenenergyoptions.biz](http://www.greenenergyoptions.biz)

## THE HIPPODROME THEATRE



### THIS WONDERFUL LIFE

A captivating stage  
adaptation of the Frank  
Capra holiday classic.  
On stage Nov 26-Dec 19

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A family favorite and  
Gainesville holiday tradition.  
On stage Nov 27-Dec 18

Tickets at (352) 375-HIPP & [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org). Find us on Facebook!



### Kestrel Ecological Services, LLC

- Invasive/exotic plant surveys & control
- Native plant restoration
- Tree surveys & hazard tree evaluation
- Biological inventories
- Residential and Commercial

Erick D. Smith

[urbanforester@gmail.com](mailto:urbanforester@gmail.com)

(352) 380-0648

Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg

[eamike@ufl.edu](mailto:eamike@ufl.edu)

(352) 339-0701

We are State Licensed Commercial Herbicide Applicators with  
Natural Areas Weed Management/Aquatic Weed Control Certifications

### Captain Doug's

## TIDE WATER TOURS

from Cedar Key

For the ultimate birding experience  
by boat to remote coastal marshes or  
near shore islands. Charter only.

Call or check our website: 352-543-9523  
[tidewatertours.com](http://tidewatertours.com)

## **A Tribute to Meg Niederhofer**

Meg Niederhofer retired on August 31st following 22 years as the Arborist for the city of Gainesville, a remarkable tenure that has resulted in preservation of the forest canopy in a city that has rapidly urbanized over the past 20 years. She came to Gainesville over 25 years ago after working at the Cornell Plantations in Ithaca, NY, to earn her Master's degree at the University of Florida. Under Meg's leadership, Gainesville has become known as one of the leading communities in urban forestry. Meg has been responsible for the planting of tens of thousands of trees in Gainesville, and for saving just as many through regulations, which many other communities have copied. She has educated hundreds, through speaking to individual tree sponsors or large groups, and her frequent news stories and editorial columns. She has mentored many entry-level professionals who have gone on to other tree-related careers and has collaborated on research projects that have changed urban forestry practices in Florida. By overseeing the removal of weak trees, and re-planting with stronger species she has left Gainesville with a much stronger forest. The Alachua Audubon Society wishes to thank Meg for all of her efforts over her distinguished career. Her works have helped to provide the habitats that the birds who reside, breed and migrate through here require, contributing in no small part to the enjoyment that we derive from their presence. Thanks, Meg, and best wishes on your retirement!

## **Volunteers Needed by Alachua Audubon To Participate in a "Backyard Wildlife Tour"**

Alachua Audubon is in the process of planning a fun, interactive, and informative new fundraising event—a Backyard Wildlife Tour. We are looking for volunteers to help with this new one-day event that will occur on Saturday, February 26th.

Is your backyard a wildlife refuge? Do you attract a variety of different birds through a combination of feeders, watering stations, and bushes for hiding areas? Would you share what you know about attracting wildlife with others? Alachua Audubon is looking for volunteers who possess a flair for "birdscaping" and are successful in attracting a wide variety of bird species to their backyards.

For one day only, volunteers would open their yard to visitors who have signed up for the Alachua Audubon-sponsored self-tour. These visitors will be on a self-guided tour of birdscaped homes in the Gainesville area and your stop would be one of the stops along the tour.

By participating in this tour, you will meet other people with similar interests in wildlife and the outdoors. You can share your observations and successes with other interested people and provide ideas for others to be able to successfully attract wildlife to their yards. If requested, another Alachua Audubon member will be available to assist you and provide more bird-related discussions to visitors.

If you are interested in participating in the Backyard Wildlife Tour or would simply like more information, please contact Ron Robinson at gonebirden@cox.net or 352-332-4867.



## Removal of Bison from Paynes Prairie

The Florida Park Service introduced bison onto Paynes Prairie about three decades ago. The Prairie had been a cattle ranch for several hundred years, and prior to that bison were native there. The idea was that grazing animals (including wild horses and scrub cattle) would maintain the Prairie as the grassland it was before the Europeans arrived. Though the bison herd started small, it presently numbers about 50 animals.

Now the Park Service is contemplating removal of the bison, horses, and cattle from Paynes Prairie, or a steep reduction in their numbers and confinement to a small part of the property. This would seem to abandon the habitat-management aims they were introduced for. Park Service administrators initially said that liability concerns, or the cost of fencing, were at the bottom of this, but they are now saying that they have “no authorization” to answer questions.

On October 15th I asked Jessica Sims, the Park Service’s information director, when a public meeting, or periods of public comment, could be expected. She said, “I don’t have those specifics at this time. Right now we’re still collecting information.” I asked her to keep me updated on the situation, and you can probably do the same by emailing her at [jessica.k.sims@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:jessica.k.sims@dep.state.fl.us)

There are several questions that need to be asked, such as whether any animals should be removed in the first place, but also the extent to which the herd should be thinned, and how they should be disposed of (sold as meat? sold for exhibition?), and in all these questions public comment is desirable. Please watch for announcements, or ask Ms. Sims to keep you notified.

Rex Rowan

## Looking for Participants

Dara Wald, a UF graduate student, is conducting research to better understand individual attitudes toward feral and free-ranging domestic cats. She is looking for participants who will participate in a one-time meeting to answer survey questions regarding feral and free-ranging domestic cats. The total time will be approximately 60 minutes and your identity will be kept confidential throughout the study.

If you are interested in participating in this study please contact Dara Wald at 781-964-5807 or [dwald@ufl.edu](mailto:dwald@ufl.edu). Any questions regarding the research can be directed to Dara.

## Vote YES for: INITIATIVE ORDINANCE 1 the AIRBOAT CURFEW

### The Problem - Excessive and Unnecessary Nighttime Airboat Noise.

- Disrupts sleep and the right to peace and quiet in our own homes.
- Airboats and noise pollution are detrimental to wildlife and the environment.
- Denies the rights of other waterway users to quiet enjoyment of our natural resources.
- Current state airboat noise law inadequately protects citizens and is unenforceable.

### The Solution – 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Nighttime Airboat Curfew On Alachua County Waterways.

- A fair compromise. Half a day for airboating. Half a day for peace and quiet.
- Will save taxpayers money by being easier and less costly to enforce than the existing state law.
- Does not ban airboats, only restricts the hours of operation.
- No one is denied access to our natural resources, only the choice of vessel is regulated.

Airboating is a Choice, not a Necessity. Peace and Quiet is Our Right!

Learn more at [www.QuietLakesofAlachuaCounty.com](http://www.QuietLakesofAlachuaCounty.com)

Pt. Pol. Adv. Paid for by Quiet Lakes of Alachua County POB 333 Ovation, FL 32933

Alachua Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 140464  
Gainesville, Florida 32614-0464

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Gainesville Florida 32601  
Permit No. 18



*The Crane*  
Nov-Dec 2010

## ***Mark your Calendar***

### **5th Annual Holiday Social**

**Friday, Dec. 10 at  
Wild Birds Unlimited**

**6:30—9:00 pm**

## **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 paul-  
moler@bellsouth.net

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Please check level of membership:**

☐ Basic \$35.00 ☐ Senior \$15.00 ☐ Student \$15.00

Introductory Membership:

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

Make check payable to National Audubon Society