



The Crane

Volume 52 Number 1 September—October 2010

September and October Field Trips

Sunday, September 5, 2:30 p.m.

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, and at closer range, than you're used to. Cost \$20 per person. Call Wild Birds Unlimited (352-381-1997) to reserve a spot on the boat.

Saturday, September 11, 7:30 a.m.

Chastain-Seay Park

We'll carpool from the tag agency on NW 34th Street just south of US-441. Rex Rowan will lead us through this lovely park on the Santa Fe River in search of warblers, vireos, and other early fall migrants.

Saturday, September 18, 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 25, 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 26, 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 2, 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. Craig Parenteau will lead us through this beautiful park on the Santa Fe River in search of warblers, tanagers, and other fall migrants.

Sunday, October 3, 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. We'll meet 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.

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

San Felasco Hammock – Progress Center

Admission fee \$4.00 per vehicle. We'll 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, fields with nice warblery oak edges, deciduous forest, and Cellon Creek. (Continued on Pg. 6).

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 Flamand
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 and Bob Simons, Paul Moler, and other volunteers
Historian	Martha King 372-4149

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 as a way to keep Alachua County's birders motivated during some of the hottest days of the year. It has been mainly a local affair since then, but this year we issued the Challenge to the rest of Florida's birdwatching community, and a lot of them responded. Eventually 50 entries from 18 counties were submitted (plus another from Norfolk, England). Statewide, the highest cumulative total was Miami-Dade's 158 species, while the highest individual total was 131 species by Michael Brothers of Volusia County. A lot of people were surprised at what a good time they had and how little the weather bothered them, and most expressed an eager interest in repeating the experience in June 2011.

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, which this year included a Black-throated Blue Warbler, a Black Tern, a Lesser Yellowlegs, and Spotted, Semipalmated, and White-rumped Sandpiper, or early fall migrants, this year a single Belted Kingfisher. We also had a handful of rarely-seen breeding species – Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Thrush, and Hairy Woodpecker – a couple of coastal strays – Least and Caspian Terns – and one completely unexpected bird, a Shiny Cowbird. An amazing 119 species were observed and counted during the June Challenge! Here is the list.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Muscovy Duck, Wood Duck, Mallard (apparently wild, capable of flight, nesting at Paynes Prairie, so presumed to be countable), Mottled 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, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane, Killdeer, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Least Tern, Caspian Tern, Black 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 (Continued on Page 5)

AAS Accomplishments During 2009/2010

Alachua Audubon Society (AAS) continues to maintain a large and active membership, with about 950 members to date. Here are some of our accomplishments during the 2009/2010 year.

1. AAS sponsored over 40 fieldtrips during this past year. The field trips were led by knowledgeable volunteers and were very well attended. Some of the CLEP (Conservation Lands Education Program) field trips were held at Conservation Lands in Alachua County such as Barr Hammock, Gum Root Park, Sweetwater Preserve, and Tuscawilla Prairie and highlighted each site's unique flora, fauna, and conservation history. A comparable number of field trips has been scheduled for the 2010/2011 season and a full list is provided in the flyer that is included in this newsletter. We hope to see you at some AAS fieldtrips this year!
2. Youth education was a focus of this past year and will continue to be a high priority. AAS Audubon Adventure kits were distributed to 38 3rd and 4th grade classes and the teachers taught the Audubon curriculum to over 900 students! The teachers reported that the Audubon Adventure kits were an overwhelming success and they hope to receive the kits again this year. Please consider making a donation so we can continue to provide Audubon Adventure kits to the teachers. (An announcement for donations is provided in this newsletter.) Kids Christmas Bird Counts were conducted this past winter. Classroom presentations were also made using the Bird Detective slide show. Anyone wishing to present the Bird Detective presentation to school-age children may contact Adam Kent (kestrelkent@yahoo.com) for a copy of the presentation and for a brief training session. The presentation is very simple to give and has been well received by students of all ages. Two birding fieldtrips were conducted with 12 classes of 6th graders to the Kanapaha Middle School Infiltrating Wetlands. Six AAS volunteers reached out and were able to connect with over 300 students! Many of these students had never looked through binoculars before these fieldtrips. And AAS has purchased and donated a copy of the *National Geographic's Field Guide for Birds of North America* to every public elementary, middle, and high school in Alachua County. Thanks to the many AAS volunteers who donated their time and energy to foster these environmental education events to the youth of our community!
3. The Gainesville Christmas Bird Count is always an exciting time to spend an entire day identifying and recording birds in Alachua County. This past year a record high of 159 bird species were recorded, along with rare sightings of over 100 white pelicans, two cave swallows, and two whooping cranes.
4. AAS continues to maintain 18 bird feeding stations at Haven Hospice for the patients, families, and staff to enjoy. We have received very positive feedback from the families and staff regarding how comforting it is to watch the birds feeding, especially during the high stress time when family and friends are patients at Haven Hospice. We would appreciate any donations to continue purchasing seed to keep the 18 bird feeders filled. If you would like to make a donation (\$25 would be a big help) please send a check made

payable to Alachua Audubon to our treasurer, Dotty Robbins (25125 NW 210th Lane High Springs, FL 32643). Please indicate "Hospice Bird Seed" on the check.

5. Several AAS volunteers have enhanced the birding facilities at Dudley Farm by creating a bird list; cleaning and repairing 15 bird nesting boxes; and installing a water line, bird bath, and native plantings. An educational sign near the bird bath is being planned at Dudley Farm.
6. Boy Scouts and other groups have provided AAS with approximately 100 kestrel nest boxes and Bob Simons continues to lead an effort to put them up in Alachua, Suwannee, Marion, Gilchrist, and Levy Counties. Approximately 20 kestrel boxes have been installed during each of the past four years, most in western Alachua County, and casual observations suggest that kestrels are successfully raising young in at least a third of these boxes. The boxes will be monitored periodically to determine use by kestrels.
7. AAS volunteers teach four birdwatching classes each year – two in spring, one in fall, and one in winter – in conjunction with Santa Fe College's leisure courses. This popular class continues to fill up. Signup is currently underway.
8. AAS brought in a significant amount of money through two fundraising events – the sale of Christmas trees and wreaths and a silent auction during the Christmas Social. These events have helped generate the money needed to achieve the many accomplishments.

Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed their time and energy to help AAS realize these many accomplishments!

Debbie Segal

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,



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 8th)
- Buying your tree sight-unseen

Tree and wreath pickup place, date, and time TBA

To order, please send an e-mail to alpoorvas@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

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!!!!

As fall is approaching, AAS is planning our Fifth Annual Christmas Tree sale. **We will need your orders and payment by November 8th.** Contact Stacy Porvasnik at slporvas@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, but not as expensive as many parking lot venders. 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!

The Florida Museum of Natural History presents "The Blue Path: Protecting Florida's Springs" from Aug. 12 through Dec. 12.

Explore the state's spring system and water cycle that shapes the landscape through photographs, paintings and displays by north central Florida's best artists, writers, filmmakers, educators and scientists. The exhibit examines how everyday choices can either deplete and destroy or restore the state's water supply. It is suitable for all ages and admission is free.

Coordinated by Florida's Eden, a nonprofit citizen initiative dedicated to protecting Florida's natural resources and building a sustainable and prosperous economy, the exhibit launches the Blue Path grassroots campaign to protect the state's freshwater springs. The images and displays emphasize a "**conservation first**" strategy to preserving Florida's valuable water resources.

June Challenge (Cont. from Pg. 2)

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, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Bachman's Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Shiny Cowbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, and House Sparrow.

These folks reported their count number. Craig Parenteau 111, Rex Rowan 105, Becky Enneis 103, Bob Carroll 102, Ron Robinson 97, Mary Landsman 97, Frank Fogarty 87, Barbara Shea 86, Anne Kendall 84, John Martin 78, Glenn Israel 76, Karen Johnson 75, Vince Amlin 63 (21 lifers!), Bill and Sue Enneis 63, John Killian 56, Phil Laipis 47, Oak Hammock Birding Team 37, Conrad Burkholder 35, and Nora Parks-Church (age 6) 23.

Rex Rowan

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.

Speakers Corner

Wednesday, September 15 at *Tower Road Library*, 7:00 p.m. "Beach Birds" a talk by Adam Kent about the identification and natural history of Florida shore birds.

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

Note: these talks are at different libraries!

Community Calendar

Sep 4 Sierra Club Ardisia pull, San Felasco Hammock

Sep 11 North American Butterfly Association field trip

Sep 21 Florida Native Plant Society meeting

Oct 2 Sierra Club Ardisia pull, San Felasco Hammock

Oct 19 Florida Native Plant Society meeting

Oct 23 Monarch Butterfly Festival, St. Marks NWR

Florida Native Plant Society, Paynes Prairie Chapter: <http://www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php>

Monarch Butterfly Festival: <http://www.stmarksrefuge.org/calendar.cfm>

North American Butterfly Association, North Central Florida Chapter: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabancf/Events.htm>

Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. Johns Chapter: <http://florida.sierraclub.org/ssj/outings.htm>

Field Trips (Continued from Page 1)

This weekend and next should see the peak of fall migration.

Sunday, October 10, 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 16, 8:00 a.m.

Bolen Bluff Trail

Meet 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 17, 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 Bubba Scales 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 23, 8:00 a.m.

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park – Main Entrance

Admission \$5.00 per vehicle. Meet at the ranger station at the main entrance near Micanopy for a tour of the deep, rich hardwood habitats on the southern Prairie bluff.

JUNGLE BIRDERS

First birding agency owned and operated by native Amazonians

Amazing Birds, Incredible Landscapes

Outstanding Guided Tours



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
Website: www.eratrend.com



Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed • Feeders • Nesting Boxes • Nature Gifts • Optics

4215 NW 16th Blvd Gainesville

352-381-1997

gainesville.wbu.com

gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



3437 W. University Avenue (next to Lipham Music Store)

(352) 378-0532

Now serving locally roasted coffee & Florida honeys



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

"The calzones will make all of your wildest dreams come true!"
-REX ROWAN

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



HIPPODROME THEATRE



BOEING BOEING

The Hippodrome is proud to present the Tony award-winning Broadway farce **BOEING BOEING** this fall. An architect living in 1960's Paris juggles 3 flight attendant fiancées until schedules change, flights are delayed, and romantic chaos ensues in this whirl of flirtatious pandemonium! Don't miss this Broadway hit on stage for the first time in Gainesville!

On stage Sept 1-26. 8 shows a week.

Tickets at (352) 375-HIPP & thehipp.org. Friend 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

(352) 380-0648

Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg

emike@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

Birds and Conservation in Costa Rica

Costa Rica, about the size of West Virginia, is one of the most richly bio-diverse countries in this hemisphere. Lying at the crossroads between two continents and divided by mountains into several different biological zones and microclimates, it hosts about four percent of the world's plant and animal species, including nearly 900 species of birds. To protect this diversity, the country has prioritized preservation and conservation. Famously setting aside about a fourth of its territory into reserves, it has launched numerous efforts to reforest the land and educate the population on the importance of sustainable land use and preserving natural areas. To experience some of these innovative conservation efforts, and of course see some fabulous birds, nine Gainesville birders headed to Costa Rica in July 2010.

We spent the arrival and departure days of our trip at the lovely Hotel Bougainvillea, situated in a suburb of the city of Heredia. Bougainvillea is famous for its beautifully tended gardens, and the property is large and diverse enough to attract a nice variety of birds. Here we enjoyed watching the likes of Blue-crowned Motmot, Squirrel Cuckoo, Rufous-naped Wren, Ferruginous Pygmy- Owl, Canivet's Emerald, plus many more common tropical species.

The second morning we headed toward the top of Poas Volcano for some high-elevation birding in Costa Rica's oldest national park. Just outside the entrance we found a nice feeding flock of cloud forest species, including Collared Redstarts, Prong-billed Barbets, Sooty-capped Bush Tanagers, and striking Long-tailed Silky-Flycatchers. Inside the park a wooded trail gave us close looks at Large-footed Finches, Black-and Yellow Silky Flycatchers, Fiery-throated and Volcano Hummingbirds, Green-fronted Lancebill, Slaty Flowerpiercers, and a brief peek at a pair of often-heard but rarely seen Silvery-fronted Tapaculos. We also got close views of Poas Squirrel, a rather small, endearing endemic with an extremely limited range.

Our next stop was a visit to the National Institute of Biodiversity. InBio, as it is common-

ly called, is a non-profit organization with an ambitious mission to discover, research, and catalog every species in Costa Rica. Their efforts have led to the discovery of hundreds of new plants and insects, and their research has lent itself to numerous conservation projects. Besides hearing a talk on InBio's work and accomplishments, we had a guided tour of their environmental park, which houses many living examples of species found throughout the country. The park serves an important public education function, and is very popular with children and school groups.

From InBio we headed over the mountains toward the Caribbean slope, with a quick stop at a somewhat abandoned butterfly/hummingbird garden known as El Tapir. The owners were absent, but the hummingbirds were not! Large clumps of vervain were fairly alive with Violet-crowned Wood Nymphs, Green Thorntails, Violet-headed Hummingbirds, White-necked Jacobins, and Snowcaps. From there we headed to the rustically luxurious Selva Verde Lodge, which would be our base for the next two days. The following morning we were greeted, literally just outside our rooms, by Orange-billed Sparrows, Chestnut-backed Antbirds, Streak-headed and Cocoa Woodcreepers, Bright-rumped Attilas, and the arresting calls of a nearby troop of Howler Monkeys. Our first visit this day was to the famed La Selva OTS Station. The Organization of Tropical Studies is a consortium of several universities and research organizations united in preserving significant tracts of forest for ecological studies and to protect biological corridors. After seeing an amazing fifty species of birds in just two hours at La Selva, we attended a presentation by the Rainforest Biodiversity Group on the plight of the Great Green Macaw in Costa Rica. The group is making inspired efforts at reforestation and public education in order to save habitat for that threatened species. The next morning, acting on a tip about a great new birding spot, we were delighted to see several wild Great Green Macaws flying majestically (and calling profanely) across

an open field. A bonus find here was an immature Great Potoo, sitting in plain view for us to admire.

We also spent time at the beautiful and expansive campus of EARTH University. This is a small undergraduate school dedicated to improving tropical agriculture in ways that promote sustainability and protect biodiversity. Besides touring some of their organic and botanical gardens, we birded a couple of tracts of beautiful primary forest. Highlights of our visit included White Hawk, Snowy Cotinga, Broad-billed Motmot, Long-tailed Tyrant, nice looks at two species of Sloth, and White-faced Capuchins.

Next we moved up into the Caribbean foothills for a couple of days at the comfortable and birdy Rancho Naturalista. Here we enjoyed front-porch birding at its best, with several species of hummingbirds, tanagers, oropendolas, and others regularly visiting feeders. This included, one morning, an immature Bicolored Hawk that dropped in to harass a group of Gray-headed Chachalacas! At the end of a steep path is a stream with quiet pools where we watched hummingbirds bathing in the afternoon. It was here we found a pair of Tawny-throated Leaf-tossers joining the hummers for a dip. On one forest jaunt a few of us were extremely lucky to see a pair of rare Scaled Antpittas as they hopped across the path right in front of us. One member of our party who skipped the forest walk was equally delighted to find a Black-crested Coquette near the lodge. A side trip from Rancho yielded, among other great birds, Fasciated Tiger-Heron and White-throated Flycatcher. Sitting on the porch after sunset we enjoyed cold drinks and the sensation of dozens of bats patrolling close enough to occasionally brush us with air from their wings. From Rancho we visited nearby CATIE botanical gardens. CATIE is a graduate university dedicated to research in sustainable tropical agriculture, and is attempting to maintain a genetic stock of tropical agricultural plants from around the world. Here we saw many fascinating plants and flowers, as well as some pretty cool birds, including Boat-Billed Heron and Green Ibis.

Reluctantly winding down the trip, our



Female White-necked Jacobin at the Tirimbina Rainforest Center. Photo taken by Diana Mckinnon-Manetz

final stop was a small, organic, shade-grown coffee farm, Café Cristina. Here we saw a living, working example of how the owners, avoiding the use of artificial pesticides and fertilizers, are getting good yields of high quality coffee while at the same time increasing the diversity of habitat. One interesting project they have undertaken is the planting of bromeliads on the trees that shade their coffee. The resulting increase in frog and insect diversity has proven to be beneficial to wintering migrants, particularly Golden-winged Warblers. The property also hosts breeding populations of White-throated Flycatchers and Buffy-crowned Wood Partridges, two species with very limited ranges in Central America.

A Costa Rican company called Green Magic Travel flawlessly handled the logistics of the trip. Their expertise is in educational travel highlighting conservation and biodiversity, and this was their first trip with a focus on bird-watching. They are excited about offering more tours of this sort; so if you are interested in seeing great tropical birds as well as efforts to protect the biodiversity that sustains them, stay tuned!

By Mike Manetz

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

Sept.—Oct. 2010



Photo of Rex Rowan holding a rehabilitated Mississippi Kite just before releasing the Kite. Three Mississippi Kites were rehabilitated by a combination of Leslie Straub of Florida Wildlife Care, UF School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Photo taken by Helen Warren.

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