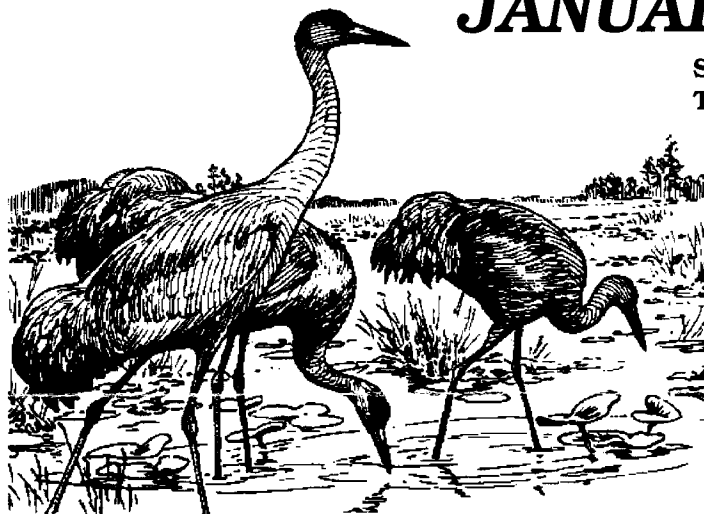


The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society
Volume 43 Number 4 January 2002

JANUARY'S PROGRAM

Saturday January 12, 2002, 2:00 P.M.
Tower Road Branch Library, 3020 SW 75th



Long time Alachua Audubon member and forest ecologist Bob Simons will speak on "Ecosystems of Florida," describing the varied biological communities of Florida and the plants and animals that live in them. The ecosystems Bob will discuss include pine flatwoods, sandhills, scrub, beaches, swamps, marshes, hay heads, streams and rivers, and lakes and ponds. Bob has slides he and his wife Erica have taken, along with some taken by Fiona Sunquist and John Moran. Refreshments will be served.

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday-Sunday, January 5-6, 2002, 8:00 A.M.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Meet leader John Hintermeister at the refuge visitor center at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday morning (going west on US-98, turn left onto CR-59 at Newport and continue to the pay station and the visitor center just beyond it). This trip is always one of the highlights of the year. In winter the refuge's impoundments provide food and shelter to a great number of ducks (10-15 species) and other water birds. We'll also look for a variety of sparrows and wrens and whatever else shows up. On the second day of this trip we usually focus on tracking down good birds in the Panhandle that have been seen outside the

refuge, so we don't know exactly where we will be. If you're staying over, an inexpensive motel is the Oaks in Panacea (850-984-5370).

Saturday, January 19, 2002, 8:00 A.M.

Persimmon Point Sparrow Walk

This annual half-day trip is recommended for intermediate level birders and involves a couple of miles of walking on an easy to moderate trail out to the point. Last year we saw a variety of sparrows including Vesper, Savannah, Le Conte's, Grasshopper, and White-throated. Some years we also find Henslow's. The trip is limited to ten people; to make a reservation call Karen Johnson at 376-9090. Meet at the District II Headquarters promptly at 8:00 A.M. as the gate will closed after that.

(Continued on next page)

Saturday, January 26, 2002, 6:00 A.M.

Ft. Clinch/Huguenot Park

Meet promptly at the Exchange Publix at NW 13th St. and NW 39th Ave. Lloyd Davis will lead us to these sites on the Atlantic coast. We will look for a variety of gulls, shorebirds, raptors, and sea birds. Highlights might include Purple Sandpiper, Northern Gannet, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and even a Black-legged Kittiwake. Who knows what the winter winds will blow our way? The pier at Ft. Clinch can be quite cold and windy, so dress accordingly. Bring a lunch and some water, as this trip will extend into early afternoon.

Saturday, February 2, 8:00 A.M.

Alexander Springs: Focus on plants

Dr. Dana Griffin will lead us on a trip to Alexander Springs, a variety of habitats rich in flora. (He also mentioned that there are some birds there for those who cannot resist bringing their binoculars along on a botany trip.) This is a great opportunity for us to learn about plants found in this area. We'll meet at the Kash 'N Karry at 2002 SW 34th St. at 8:00 A.M. and then carpool to Alexander Springs. There is an entry fee of about \$3.50 to get into Alexander Springs. Bring lunch and something to drink. We will return by mid afternoon.

GAINESVILLE CBC: 2001

This year's Christmas Bird Count for Gainesville was on December 16. Sixty-five observers in 11 teams counted the birds within the 15-mile diameter circle of the count area. The total of 137 species is a relatively low number of species, not too surprising in view of the dry weather (some expected ducks were missed) and summer-like conditions we have been experiencing. Four additional species listed as Count Week (CW) birds were: Horned Grebe, Northern Pintail, Whip-poor-will, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. CW birds are those seen within the three days before and after Count Day, undoubtedly around on count day, just not found!

This is the first time in my remembrance when no new species were added. The Tyrannus, sp. was probably a Western Kingbird (seen on only two previous counts) but could be Cassin's or another species. Black-throated Green Warbler has only been seen once previously on our count. Other "good" birds (because rarely counted) were Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Am. White Pelican,

N. Waterthrush, Am. Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lincoln's Sparrow. The female Vermillion Flycatcher was seen at the Williamson's Farm. One was seen there in '96, '98, and '99. It's hard to believe that we missed the bird if it had been there in '97 and 2000, since we really worked



to find it.

Thanks to all observers, to Griselda Forbes, who supplied us with food and beverage after our long day, and my special thanks to Bob and Scott Knight. Bob was the computer guru and Scott manned the adding machine. That saved me hours crunching numbers afterwards.

—Barbara P. Muschlitz

New maxima in boldface		Wild Turkey	15
Pied-billed Grebe	49	Northern Bobwhite	20
Am White Pelican	11	King Rail	5
Dbl-cr Cormorant	635	Virginia Rai	16
Anhinga	62	Sora	89
American Bittern	4	Common Moorhen	1144
Great Blue Heron	99	American Coot	5525
Great Egret	86	Limpkin	2
Snowy Egret	87	Sandhill Crane	762
Little Blue Heron	90	Killdeer	209
Tricolored Heron	20	Greater Yellowlegs	8
Cattle Egret	544	Lesser Yellowlegs	1
Green Heron	9	Least Sandpiper	58
Black-cr'd Night-Heron	19	Common Snipe	238
White Ibis	489	American Woodcock	1
Glossy Ibis	139	Bonaparte's Gull	1
Wood Stork	15	Ring-billed Gull	397
Black Vulture	201	Forster's Tern	82
Turkey Vulture	948	Rock Dove	204
Blk-bell Whstling-Duck	2	Eur. Collared Dove	203
Wood Duck	202	Mourning Dove	594
Mottled Duck	52	Common Ground-Dove	5
Blue-winged Teal	114	Barn Owl	2
Northern Shoveler	4	Eastern Screech-Owl	27
Green-winged Teal	5	Great Horned Owl	24
Ring-necked Duck	57	Barred Owl	31
Lesser Scaup	1	Selasphorus sp.	1
Common Goldeneye	1	Belted Kingfisher	23
Hooded Merganser	151	Red-headed Woodp.	31
Osprey	10	Red-bellied Woodp.	210
Bald Eagle	36	Ylw-bellied Sapsucker	50
Northern Harrier	57	Downy Woodpecker	117
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	Northern Flicker	97
Cooper's Hawk	6	Pileated Woodpecker	85
Red-shouldered Hawk	90	Eastern Phoebe	259
Red-tailed Hawk	61	Vermilion Flycatcher	1
American Kestrel	81	Ash-throated Flycatcher	1

The Crane is published bimonthly throughout the year. Content of *The Crane* is the sole responsibility of the editor and fulfils 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. Please limit each article to no more than two pages.

The Crane is printed on recycled paper.

Tyrannus, sp.	1	Palm Warbler	404
Loggerhead Shrike	84	Black&White Warbler	52
White-eyed Vireo	101	American Redstart	2
Blue-headed Vireo	54	Ovenbird	4
Blue Jay	175	Northern Waterthrush	1
American Crow	309	Common Yellowthroat	160
Fish Crow	207	Wilson's Warbler	1
Crow, sp.	161	Ylw-breasted Chat	1
Tree Swallow	10	Eastern Towhee	86
Carolina Chickadee	126	Chipping Sparrow	417
Tufted Titmouse	256	Field Sparrow	14
Brown-headed Nuthatch	9	Vesper Sparrow	63
Carolina Wren	307	Savannah Sparrow	167
House Wren	92	Grasshopper Sparrow	7
Sedge Wren	8	Henslow's Sparrow	3
Marsh Wren	23	Song Sparrow	35
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	381	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	269	Swamp Sparrow	234
Eastern Bluebird	139	White-throated Sparrow	124
Hermit Thrush	31	White-crowned Sparrow	8
American Robin	2927	Northern Cardinal	477
Gray Catbird	109	Red-winged Blackbird1	2403
Northern Mockingbird	167	Eastern Meadowlark	318
Brown Thrasher	21	Rusty Blackbird	2
European Starling	538	Common Grackle	1226
American Pipit	21	Boat-tailed Grackle	5972
Cedar Waxwing	118	Brown-headed Cowbird	123
Orange-crnd Warbler	35	Baltimore Oriole	19
Northern Parula	3	House Finch	126
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3332	American Goldfinch	448
Black-thr Green Warbler	1	House Sparrow	115
Yellow-throated Warbler	30		
Pine Warbler	145	Number of species	137
Prairie Warbler	3	Number of individuals	48180

Observers (Team leaders in bold face): **Howard Adams**, John Hintermister, Adam Knight, Bob Knight, Scott Knight, Don Morrow, Brad Williams, **Craig Parenteau**, Alfredo Begazo, Dawn Berggren, Adam Kent, Ria Leonard, **Mike Manetz**, Ed Bonahue, Linda Fitzgerald, Ashley Manetz, Bubba Scales, Ann Stodola, Paul Stodola, **Barbara Muschlitz**, Alice Farkash, Dale Henderson, Linda Hensley, Karen Johnson, Mary Landsman, Greg McDermott, **Brian McNab**, Grace Kiltie, Carmine Lanciani, **Dan Pearson**, Dan Evans, Scott Flamand, Susie Hetrick, Michael Jenkins, Ann Miller, Ken Scott, Glenda Townley, **Rex Rowan**, Lloyd Davis, Lee Gordon, John Martin, **Tom Webber**, Peter Ames, Anne Kendall, Patti Orr, Paul Sindelar, Terry Taylor, Linda Terry, **Martha King**, Pat Burns, Lyla Lundeen, Alice Tyler, **Dave Beatty**, Marcy Jones, Barbara Mollison, Dottie Robbins, Maralee Romfh, **Katie Sieving**, Judy Bryan, Kristen Candelora, Ruth Ernsberger, Elizabeth Farley, Greg Kaufmann, Jeremy Kirchman, Andy Kratter.

Around the County

...by Mike Manetz

There is nothing like the first major cold front of winter to temptingly tease birders out into the field. Nostrils flare at the early morning chill as if one could almost smell the Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, and Fox Sparrows. Even the faintest possibility of catching sight of a Short-eared Owl or Rough-legged Hawk can propel a birder into the frosty dawn while spouse and family lie warm in bed. Unfortunately, as November blended into December, temperatures lingering in the 80's allowed for no such scenario, and most birders seemed content biding rather than birding in the run up

to the Christmas Count. There were, however, a few interesting reports.

A group of Miami birders visited LaChua Trail Thanksgiving Day and found an astonishing rarity, a Lark Sparrow. This was the first local report of that species in the ten years I have been birding here. Unfortunately no one was able to relocate the bird. Also at LaChua, on November 29, Andy Kratter was able to relocate the Ash-throated Flycatcher that was first discovered in late October. Hopefully that bird will stick around for the Count. I checked Cone's Dike December 9 and found seven species of sparrows, including two Lincoln's Sparrows. Greg McDermott and I checked the head of LaChua December 15 and found eight sparrow species, highlighted by a Grasshopper Sparrow and several Field Sparrows.

On the water front, Rex Rowan was fishing Lake Santa Fe November 24 and found at least one Common Loon and one Horned Grebe. These two species can be difficult to find elsewhere in the county during winter, but Lake Santa Fe seems to be the most consistently reliable spot. A few reports from Newnans Lake showed that ducks (and duck hunters) were in good supply there, including a flock of Fulvous Whistling Ducks reported by Tom Webber. Also present around the lake edge were unusually high numbers were rails, mostly Soras, but Andy Kratter also detected a few Virginia Rails and one King Rail. White Pelicans also seemed to be re-testing local waters, with one report from Newnans and another from Chapman's Pond. Recall that just a couple of winters ago flocks of White Pelicans numbering over a hundred were not unheard of.

Finally, selasphorus hummingbird sightings have been comparatively few this winter, but Ruth Palinek had a couple of them in her yard from early November. Since then Ruth reports that one of the two has begun molting, identifying itself as a male Rufous Hummingbird. Thanks to those who shared their sightings through December 14.

**For updated information on
AAS field trips and programs:
Call SunDial Birding Line:
335-3500,
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"OLD" MEMBERS

As we have done for many years in the January issue of **The Crane**, we salute our many long-term members. The following is a list of all members of Alachua Audubon Society who have been members of National Audubon Society for ten or more continuous years. The list is compiled from information supplied by NAS, and if there are errors or omissions, please contact Paul Moler, who maintains our membership records, at 495-9419.

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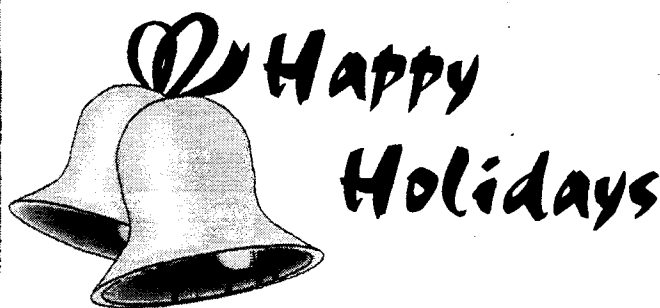
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January 2002

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