

The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society

Volume 45 Number 3 December 2003-January 2004

WINTER FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 A.M.

Ocklawaha Prairie and Sunnyhill Farms

Explore vestigial meanders of the Ocklawaha River in two little-known but resource rich Water Management District lands in Marion County. With special access privileges, we'll drive parts of the levee at Ocklawaha scanning for ducks, raptors, sparrows. In the afternoon, we'll canvas an enormous and often extremely productive sparrow field at Sunnyhill Farms. Meet trip leader Bubba Scales at Kash 'n' Karry at 2002 SW 34th Street. Bring a lunch or some money for lunch at the Dam Diner. Trip difficulty: 3

Sunday, December 21, ALL DAY

Christmas Bird Count

Join Alachua Audubon for its greatest tradition. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) gives us a snapshot of the area's bird activity. CBC data has been collected since 1900 and has been an invaluable tool in understanding the status and distribution of bird species. The CBC is a lot of fun and a lot of work. Audubon is seeking new participants, but the CBC is not for everybody. To learn how you can participate, please call event coordinator John Hintermister at 386-462-1109. Trip difficulty: 3

Sunday, January 4, 8:00 A.M.

Hague Dairy

Meet trip leader Mike Meisenburg at the Tag Agency on NW 34th Street just south of US-441 (across from ABC Liquors). Hague Dairy is one of the county's best locations for intensive study of sparrows and the dairy's wastewater lagoons and ditch complex are almost certain to produce several species of wading bird, shorebird, and duck. The myriad fields surrounding the dairy are excellent foraging habitat for blackbirds, cowbirds, swallows, and raptors. Area birders occasionally find

rarities like Yellow-headed Blackbird or Bronzed Cowbird at Hague Dairy. Trip difficulty: 1

Sat-Sun, January 10-11, 8:00 A.M.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

Meet leader John Hintermister at the refuge visitor center at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday (west on US-98, left onto CR-59 at Newport, continue to the pay station and the visitor center just beyond). This trip is always one of the highlights of the year. In winter the refuge's impoundments provide food and shelter to great flocks of ducks and other water birds. We'll also look for sparrows, wrens, and other winter visitors. On the second day of this trip we usually focus on tracking down birds in other parts of the Panhandle, so prepare for a true birding adventure. If you're staying over, an inexpensive motel is the Oaks in Panacea [850-984-5370]. To put your name on the ride board, please call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997].

Saturday, January 17, 7:00 A.M.

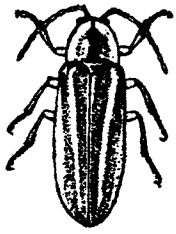
Alligator Lake

Jerry Krummrich will show us one of Lake City's best kept birding secrets. Alligator Lake is about 1000 acres of lakes and marshes with an upland interior. It is an old farm which has many miles of dikes to walk on and obtain excellent views of waterbirds, raptors, and land birds in trees lining the dikes surrounding the marshes. We can also walk into the marsh to find rails and sparrows. Participants can bring old shoes or waders and enjoy the habitat. Meet an Audubon representative at the Tag Agency on NW 34th St. (across from ABC) and carpool to Lake City. Trip difficulty: 2

Saturday, January 24, 8:00 A.M.

Persimmon Point Sparrow Walk

Limited to 12 participants - Please call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] to make a reser-



PROGRAM MEETING: DECEMBER 13 **FIREFLIES!**

Everyone is familiar with fireflies or lightning bugs, Nature's evening sparklers. Actually, fireflies are beetles, not flies. But how do they produce light? And why don't we see as many of them on summer evenings as we remember from our childhood? Jim Lloyd, UF professor emeritus of entomology and nematology, will be answering those questions in a presentation entitled "Firefly Natural History and the Impact of Intrusive Light" at the program meeting on December 13 at 2:00 P.M. in the Millhopper Branch Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street.

If you think identifying "confusing fall warblers" is difficult, try separating the various firefly species! Adults in the three main genera found

in North America look almost identical. Most are black and marked with yellow and red. Like all beetles, they have hardened front wings which protect the hind wings. But fireflies themselves have no trouble telling if another firefly belongs to the same species. They do this with their species-specific flash patterns.

In his talk to us, Professor Lloyd, described by Natural History magazine as "perhaps the foremost expert on firefly taxonomy in the world," will focus on the life cycle of fireflies and identification of local species. He will provide a handout on how to distinguish the fireflies in our area and will give an electronic demonstration of the different flash patterns they use. Professor Lloyd will also discuss the negative effect of pervasive artificial light--"photopollution"--on fireflies and how it, together with habitat loss and pesticide use, has contributed to their decline in recent years.

vation. Persimmon Point is the jewel of the prairie for sparrow enthusiasts. The grassland and field edges are some of the area's best spots for habitat specialists such as Henslow's, LeConte's, and Grasshopper Sparrows. This trip involves a fairly long walk and a bit of weedy bushwhacking. Participants will need to meet trip leader Howard Adams at the District II Headquarters at 8:00 A.M. as the gates will close when the field trip begins. Trip difficulty: 3

Saturday, January 31, 8:00 a.m.

Ft. Clinch/Hugenot Park

Meet trip leader Lloyd Davis at the Ft. Clinch State Park entrance near Fernandina Beach. At Ft. Clinch and Hugenot Park, we will look for a variety of gulls, shore birds, raptors, and seabirds. Highlights of recent trips include Purple Sandpiper, Northern Gannet, and a Black-legged Kittiwake. The pier at Ft. Clinch can often be quite cold and windy, so dress accordingly. Bring a lunch and some water, as this trip will extend into late morning to early afternoon. For directions to Ft. Clinch or to put your name on the ride board, please call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997]. Trip difficulty: 2

Saturday, February 14, 7:00 A.M.

Matanzas Inlet

Meet leader Bubba Scales at Powers Park on Hawthorne Road/SR 20. The shores of Matanzas Inlet are dynamic and its sandbars are extensive. On this field trip, careful study of flocks of gulls and terns will expand your understanding of a notoriously difficult group of birds. All the while, you'll be scanning the skies for birds of prey and

the nearshore waters for pelagic birds. The limestone outcroppings on the south side of the inlet are a fairly reliable location for Purple Sandpiper and the dune vegetation can host a number of wintering passerine birds including sharp-tailed sparrows. Trip difficulty: 2

TRIP DIFFICULTY

- 1=Most of trip is within easy access to the car and/or walking on level ground of one mile or less.
- 2=Trip may involve walking on uneven ground over distances of 1-2 miles.
- 3=Trip may involve elevation change, uneven ground, and/or distances of greater than 2 miles.

HELP WANTED

The City of Gainesville's Nature Operations Division is planning to restore approximately 45 acres of longleaf pine/wiregrass habitat at Boulware Springs, and they need volunteers to assist with planting.

It has been estimated that longleaf pine communities once covered 93 million acres in the southeastern U.S., but this number has declined about 98% since European settlement. Much of what remains is in a seriously degraded condition, and will probably be lost. The three

The Crane is published six times during the year. 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. Please limit each article to no more than two pages.

The Crane is printed on recycled paper.

Deadline for the next Crane is January 21

Monthly Board Meetings

The Alachua Audubon Society Board of Directors meets at 6:30 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend. Meetings this year will again be at the clubhouse for Mill Pond, 401 NW 48th Boulevard, across from Gainesville Health & Fitness Center on Newberry Road.

one morning as he or she would otherwise see in a season. So, when the season's first cold front stalled against a warm front over Florida during the peak of fall migration, birders had a grand time in the field.

On September 29, John Hintermeister saw 15 species of warblers on Bolen Bluff trail. On the following day in San Felasco Hammock, he added another four species for a total of 19 in two days! While John's experience was unparalleled in the county, many other birders had similarly exciting days throughout the following week of inclement weather. Helen Warren and Pat Burns saw 17 thrushes of four species; Swainson's, Wood, and Gray-checked Thrush, and Veery, near the Loblolly Environmental Center on October 3. Bob Simons observed eight Gray-checked Thrushes among many Swainson's and Wood Thrushes at San Felasco Hammock on the same day.

In the days leading up to the fallout, birders reported a consistent stream of rarities from around the county. First, Pat Burns found two American Golden-Plovers near Alachua on September 19, the county's first since 1987. Then, on September 23, she found the county's 14th Black-billed Cuckoo near the Loblolly Environmental Center. John Hintermeister found number 15 just several days later at O'Leary State Park. On the same day, Grace Kittle found a Black-headed Grosbeak (fourth county record) in the Progress Park Unit of San Felasco Hammock.

Birders had but a few days to digest the fallout when John Hintermeister stirred things up again on October 6 with the county's first Lincoln's Sparrow of the season, the earliest ever by more than a month, at the La Chua Trail. On the same day, he also tied the late record for Purple Martin, broke the late record for Bank Swallow, and reported a few firsts-of-the-season among the more common winter residents like Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, and Eastern Phoebe. John's tenacity paid off again on October 19 when he found two Clay-colored Sparrows, the county's fourth record, near the observation platform on the Bolen Bluff trail.

During migration, the greatest masses of passerines move high overhead and in the dark of night. Birders spend hours, days, and even weeks prospecting for the smallest percentage of migrants that come down to forage. Occasionally, the elements of nature work against the safe uninterrupted passage of songbirds and great flocks fall out of their migratory pattern until the weather favors their furtherance. In such an event, a bird might see as many species of warbler in

AROUND THE COUNTY...

by Bubba Scales
--Michael Meisenburg

members sign up to help.

can be a daunting task, and I hope many AAS ecomike@ufl.edu. Replanting 45 acres by hand Gainesville, call me at 495-1791 or e-mail me at bringing back a bit of longleaf pine habitat to dant tree in the county. If you want to assist in laurel oak seems to have become the most abundant dominated by longleaf pines and wiregrass, and gopher tortoises. While Alachua County was southeastern American Kestrels, fox squirrels, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Northern Bobwhite, threat that is quietly taking away the habitat of zens. However, fire suppression is the insidious destruction, and readily draw scorn from citizens. and bulldozers--are tangible sources of habitat and bulldozers--are tangible sources of habitat

The tools of development--chainsaws and bulldozers--are tangible sources of habitat destruction, and readily draw scorn from citizens. However, fire suppression is the insidious threat that is quietly taking away the habitat of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Northern Bobwhite, southeastern American Kestrels, fox squirrels, and gopher tortoises. While Alachua County was once dominated by longleaf pines and wiregrass, laurel oak seems to have become the most abundant tree in the county. If you want to assist in bringing back a bit of longleaf pine habitat to Gainesville, call me at 495-1791 or e-mail me at ecomike@ufl.edu. Replanting 45 acres by hand can be a daunting task, and I hope many AAS members sign up to help.

primary reasons for the decline of longleaf pine communities are clearing for agricultural purposes, harvesting, and fire suppression. Agricultural purposes include conversion to cotton fields, orange groves, and faster-growing slash and loblolly pine plantations. I recently talked with Bob Simons about the loss of longleaf pines, and he believes more have been lost to agricultural uses than for any other reason. While the cutting of longleaf pines has occurred since European settlement, it increased significantly following the civil war. Cash was critical during reconstruction, and the vast supply of southern yellow pine (which was mainly longleaf, but also consisted of slash and loblolly pines) provided much of it. Unfortunately, trees were usually not replanted, and by WWII much of the southern forest was gone. Since the 1950's, longleaf pine has continued to decline from road-building, development, and fire suppression. The competition-intolerant longleaf pine requires periodic fire to restrict hardwoods, which because of their thinner bark, usually succumb to fire. In addition, longleaf pine seeds require bare mineral soil for successful germination and establishment.

Sparrows were not the only news of late migrants and arriving winter residents following the peak of warbler migration. Andy Kratter observed a Least Flycatcher among at least a dozen Acadian Flycatchers on Bolen Bluff trail on October 11. Mike Manetz and others reported another from Cone's Dike on the 19th. Ash-throated Flycatchers have been readily observed lately. Mary Landsman and others found two near the police horse barn at the La Chua Trail on November 5 and Becky Enneis found another at the Progress Park Unit of San Felasco Hammock on the 10th.

A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was first observed by Adam Kent and Mike Manetz on October 26. Judy Bryan found two birds at Hague on November 2, at least one of which was seen as late as the 11th.

Hague Dairy also produced the first three Northern Shovelers of the season, seen over the lagoon by Lloyd Davis and John Hintermister on November 9 and the first three Ruddy Ducks of the season, observed by Adam Kent and Mike Manetz on the same day. Steven Hofstetter observed a single Green-winged Teal among some 150 Blue-wingeds at the Home Depot pond on November 2. Pat Burns reported a Ring-necked Duck from the Post Office pond on November 6th where, on the following day, Marcy Jones observed the season's first Hooded Merganser.

A few area birders were able to observe a group of four Greater White-fronted Geese found north of Gainesville by Mike Buono on November 14. Bob Giambrone and Pat Burns each reported having seen small flocks of Snow Geese; Bob's five over Watermelon Pond near Archer and Pat's 11 on private property in Alachua. Finally, many birders have reported Sandhill Cranes arriving daily in increasing numbers. And, watch your feeders for American Goldfinches. They are trickling in, as usual, despite the fact that Brian Quinn has had goldfinches at his Micanopy feeder since early October.

Thanks to all who submitted reports through November 22.

FALL MIGRATION COUNT

Most local birders are in agreement that this year's fall migration was one of the best in recent memory. The period roughly between August and November saw a steady stream of birds coming through. Many outings produced warbler species in the double digits and regular reports of goodies like Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. There was at least one slow spell, however, and that took place around the day of our annual Fall Migration Count. The days leading up

to the count were clear and warm, leaving many migrants with nothing to do but move on to their ultimate destinations. Still, our collective effort netted (not literally) 23 warbler species.

Some unexpected birds of note included a Caspian Tern found by the Newnans Lake team, and a Black-throated Green Warbler found near Alachua. Also surprising were the continued presence of White-winged Doves noted by Michael Meisenberg's team near Kanapaha Prairie and a high combined total of Brown-headed Nuthatches reported from Lake Alto, Payne's Prairie, and Morningside Nature Center. Even though warbler numbers were a little lower than usual, most folks I talked to said they enjoyed the beautiful day and had a great time. Many thanks to the team leaders and participants, and to Rex Rowan, who graciously accepted the task of compiling the data for the count.

--Mike Manetz

Black Bell Whistling Duck 41	Common Ground-Dove 5	N. Mockingbird 132
Muscovy Duck 30	Yellow-billed Cuckoo 11	Brown Thrasher 32
Wood Duck 14	Barn Owl 2	European Starling 180
Mottled Duck 6	Eastern Screech Owl 8	Blue-winged Warbler 13
Blue-winged Teal 17	Great Horned Owl 4	Tennessee Warbler 3
Wild Turkey 31	Barred Owl 28	Northern Parula 109
Northern Bobwhite 8	Chuck-wills-widow 1	Yellow Warbler 37
Pied-billed Grebe 6	Whip-poor-will 3	Chestnut-sided Warbler 20
Dbt. Cr. Cormorant 3	Chimney Swift 221	Magnolia Warbler 4
Anhinga 51	Ruby-throated Hummingbird 13	Black-thd. Blue Warbler 1
Great Blue Heron 32	Belted Kingfisher 6	Black-thd. Green Warbler 1
Great Egret 66	Red-headed Woodpecker 45	Blackburnian Warbler 2
Snowy Egret 66	Red-bellied Woodpecker 262	Yellow-throated Warbler 38
Little Blue Heron 121	Downy Woodpecker 166	Pine Warbler 62
Tricolored Heron 12	Northern Flicker 5	Prairie Warbler 47
Cattle Egret 788	Pileated Woodpecker 78	(Western) Palm Warbler 18
Green Heron 9	Eastern Wood-Pewee 7	B&W Warbler 31
Black-cr. Night Heron 7	Acadian Flycatcher 52	American Redstart 57
Yellow-cr. Night Heron 2	Empidonax sp. 8	Prothonotary Warbler 3
White Ibis 229	Great Crested Flycatcher 1	Worm-eating Warbler 2
Glossy Ibis 117	Eastern Kingbird 8	Ovenbird 64
Wood Stork 16	Loggerhead Shrike 21	Northern Waterthrush 9
Black Vulture 87	White-eyed Vireo 421	Louisiana Waterthrush 1
Turkey Vulture 83	Yellow-throated Vireo 2	Waterthrush sp. 9
Osprey 9	Blue-headed Vireo 4	Kentucky Warbler 1
Northern Harrier 1	Red-eyed Vireo 150	Common Yellowthroat 65
Bald Eagle 18	Blue Jay 219	Hooded Warbler 18
Cooper's Hawk 3	Am. Crow 118	Summer Tanager 44
Red-shouldered Hawk 55	Fish Crow 35	Scarlet Tanager 8
Red-tailed Hawk 12	Crow sp. 44	Eastern Towhee 114
American Kestrel 8	N. Rough-wd. Swallow 8	Northern Cardinal 428
Common Moorhen 70	Barn Swallow 220	Blue Grosbeak 5
Lincoln 1	Carolina Chickadee 133	Indigo Bunting 43
Sandhill Crane 23	Tufted Titmouse 349	Red-winged Blackbird 2092
Killdeer 33	Br. headed Nuthatch 11	Eastern Meadowlark 1
Greater Yellowlegs 2	Carolina Wren 402	Common Grackle 21
Lesser Yellowlegs 4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5	Boat-tailed Grackle 471
Spotted Sandpiper 2	Blue gray Gnatcatcher 251	Brown-headed Cowbird 400
Caspian Tern 1	Eastern Bluebird 25	Baltimore Oriole 1
Rock Pigeon 63	Veery 51	House Finch 5
Eurasian Collared Dove 36	Swainson's Thrush 12	House Sparrow 22
White-winged Dove 51	Wood Thrush 2	
Mourning Dove 177	Gray Catbird 4	

Count Participants 2003 (by territory, team leader in boldface): **Craig Parenteau**, Susie Hetrick, John Hintermister, **Mike Manetz**, Adam Kent, Ashley Manetz, Karl Miller, Scott Robinson, **John Winn**, **Katie Sieving**, Tom Contreras, Stacia Hetrick, Scarlett Howell, Marcela Machicote, David Pais, Alex Pries, Cortney Pylant, **Rex Rowan**, Ben Gordon, Lee Gordon, Rob Norton, Ann Stodola, Paul Stodola, **Doug Levey**, **Mary Landsman**, Linda Hensley, Karen Johnson, Barbara Muschitz, Alice Reakes, Helen Warren, **Howard Adams**, Anne Barkdoll, Tom Hctor, John Martin, Barbara Mollison, Amy Schwartzter, **Ivan Samuels**, Amy Jenkins, Mike Jenkins, Matt Kaye, Stefanie Krantz, **Andy Kratter**, Ed Bonahue, Alex Jahn, Jeremy Kirchman, Paul Sindelar, **Geoff Parks**, Steve Collins, **Grace Kiltie**, Richard Kiltie, Patty Orr, **Dave Beatty**, Lloyd Davis, **Michael Meisenburg**, Marcy Jones, Maralee Joos, Linda Terry, David Wahl

Island Birding Close to Home

ABACO

Anticipating summer and the birding dol-drumms that often accompany it Linda Hensley, Barbara Muschlitz, and I opted to sign up for a birding tour to the Bahamas in June. The tour was operated by Turnstone Ecotours, which is being organized by Bubba Scales. Bubba and his wife, Ingrid, are owners of Gainesville's Wild Birds Unlimited. He teamed up with Ron Pagliaro of Abaco Outback, a company specializing in nature oriented tours in Abaco. In mid-June we boarded a charter flight from the Sanford airport to Marsh Harbor, the largest town on Abaco. Five other Central Florida birders made the trip as well, and we were soon on the ground in the islands, being greeted by Bubba and whisked away to our motels. After we had settled in we had time for a late afternoon birding walk with Bubba. He took us to an area near our motels to see what we could find. Abaco is a birdy place. We soon saw sixteen species, including Gray Kingbird, West Indian Woodpecker, Black-whiskered Vireo, Red-legged Thrush, and Smooth-billed Ani. After our walk we were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by our hosts. We met Ron and his wife, Erin Lowe. Bubba's wife, Ingrid was there as well. We sat around the pool eating and talking while Magnificent Frigatebirds soared high above, Antillean Nighthawks swooped overhead, White-crowned Pigeons flew by on their way to roost and tiny Cuban Emeralds and colorful Bananaquits visited the many blossoms around the pool. This was definitely going to be a good trip.

On our first full day of birding Ron and Bubba took us to the south end of the island. Our first stop was in the small oceanfront community of Bahama Palm Shores. A walk around the area provided us with great looks at Thick-billed Vireo, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, Black-faced Grassquit, Bananaquits, Common Ground-Doves and more Red-legged Thrushes and Black-whiskered Vireos. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was stalking insects in the middle of the road! After breakfast *al fresco* we continued south to a road known as Old For-

est Road. Among the many we saw there were Zenaida Doves, Western Spindalis, Pine Warblers (a Bahaman subspecies with a slightly different song), Olive-capped Warblers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Loggerhead Kingbirds, LaSagra's Flycatchers, Cuban Pewees, and Bahama Mockingbirds. Our final stop before lunch was Crossing Rocks Pond, where in addition to common herons and moorhens there was a pair of White-cheeked Pintails and everyone had great looks at them through the scope.

During a stop for lunch at Sandy Point (barbecued fish, an island specialty) on the western side of the island we saw Roseate Terns, American Oystercatchers, Laughing Gulls and Bahama Swallows. After lunch we entered Abaco National Park to search for two island specialties: the Bahama Woodstar and the Bahama Parrot. The Park is a forested area set aside by the Bahamian government to preserve habitat for the Bahama Parrot. These parrots nest in cavities in the rock foundations of the island, and are pretty much limited to Abaco and one other island. We found both the parrot and the hummingbird, thanks to the skill and persistence of Ron and Bubba. The parrots were really incredible. They were very shy, but it was late in the day and they were gathering to roost for the night. We had several good looks at them flying through the trees and perching, filling the woods with their raucous calls. They are large Amazon parrots. Perched they looked somewhat dull but when they flew they were a kaleidoscope of greens and blues and reds and purples--just amazing. A research group is currently studying these parrots and their research may lead to better protection for the species and perhaps to its classification as a separate species. The Bahama Woodstar is equally stunning. It is a small hummingbird, iridescent green on the back with white breast with rufous belly and tail, which is fanned when they hover. The female has a white throat while the male's throat is a glittering purple. We had excellent looks at females, and a few lucky members of the group were overwhelmed by short views of a male as well. Happy with our success we headed home. A final treat waited along the forest road where we saw many flocks of Common Ground-Doves--sometimes as many as two dozen in a flock. It was a very satisfying day.

Our second day of birding we went to sea. Ron took us to Tilloo Cay where White-tailed Tropicbirds were nesting. We climbed up to the top of a ridge down the middle of the narrow island and watched over two dozen of these graceful birds soaring on the thermals, sometimes so close we could almost reach out and touch them. We were easily able to see the translucence of their wings.

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John Mahon & John Dorney

Two long-time members of Alachua Audubon Society died this fall. John Mahon served on the AAS board for many years and was active in many other organizations, notably Sierra Club and Alachua Conservation Trust. John Dorney helped in assembling and mailing *The Crane*, generously allowing the use of his home. Both will be sorely missed.

Touring further in our boat we were able to get fairly close to nesting Least Terns and Bridled Terns. The appearance of three Sooty Terns, apparently migrants, created some excitement and gave us an excellent opportunity to compare the Sooty and Bridled Terns as they were wheeling about.

We started out early on our last morning to go to the northern end of Abaco, where we looked for Key West Quail-Doves. Along the main road everyone was able to see a Bahama Yellowthroat, which is much like our Common Yellowthroat, but chubbier. In preparation for the search for the dove we listened to a tape of the bird's call, and received a lesson from Ron on how to walk in single file and be very quiet. Then we started off down an old road. Almost immediately we heard the doves calling and they seemed to be all around us. We had gone about two hundred yards when Bubba, at the rear, passed the word to stop and look back. There was a Key West Quail-Dove in the road behind us. It wandered back and forth across the road, feeding, while we each had multiple looks in the scope. We watched it until a man

entered the old road on his bicycle, chasing the dove back into the forest. It wasn't seen again. Seeing one of these elusive birds so well was, as my British friends say, "magic."

We made one final stop in some old-growth forest on Little Abaco, where we had a picnic breakfast. There were lots of birds around our breakfast spot, but best of all was an Antillean Nighthawk, perched, preening and finally sleeping. After a final period of birding it was time to return to Marsh Harbor. On the way back we stopped at Mackerel's Native Restaurant, where Ron had arranged for us to have a farewell lunch. The specialty of the day was "Steamed" Wild Boar, which a few hardy souls decided to try. Ron's wife, Erin, joined us for lunch. Her family has lived in the Bahamas for many generations and she shared with us a lot of information about the history of Abaco and the peoples who live there. It was a fitting climax for a very successful trip. I had thirteen life birds, which is a pretty good cure for the summer doldrums. You should try a little island birding yourself.

--Mary Landsman

"OLD" MEMBERS

As we have done for many years, in this 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 15 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.

40 YEARS PLUS

MARY H. CLENCH
ERNEST R. CASEY

35-39 YEARS

CLINTON L. SHEPARD
ELIZABETH B. SUGALSKI
GORDON C. WARD
AUDREY & JAPE TAYLOR
MRS. E. H. CUMMINGS
THOMAS J. WALKER
AUDREY S. CLARK
MR. & MRS. JOHN H. HINTERMISTER
MR. & MRS. E. E. MUSCHLITZ JR.
MR. & MRS. JOSEPH W. LITTLE

30-34 YEARS

MRS. BROCK HAMACHER
MR. & MRS. MICHAEL J. CORN
RICHARD E. STRUBLE
THOMAS C. EMMEL
W. PATRICK BREWSTER
FRANK W. MEAD
MRS. EDWARD OLNEY
F. H. WHITE
ERICH A. FARBER
MARY M. GUY
DR. & MRS. B. HARDCASTLE
MR. & MRS. JOHN C. WINN
LYLA LUNDEEN
T. E. BULLOCK
MR. & MRS. SAMUEL C. GOWAN
P. R. LOTZ
PETER J. ANGELL

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ROBERT W. SIMONS
DR. & MRS. DALE H. HABECK
MRS. A. G. FAIRCHILD
DR. M. M. COLE
DR. & MRS. RICHARD P. BOYCE
J. H. SULLIVAN JR.
MR. & MRS. PAUL DOUGHTY
F. WAYNE KING
DARRELL & SUE HARTMAN
F. C. & SYLVIA DUNNAM

25-29 YEARS

MARY VICTORIA McDONALD
BETTY DUNKEL CAMP
MR. & MRS. PAUL MOLER
MRS. ROBERT C. BESALSKI
WILLIAM B. HEACOCK
DAVID S. ANTHONY
MILDRED VYVERBERG
ANNE M. PERKINS
MRS. MARION H. KISSAM
FRED ERNSBERGER
R. GORDON
MRS. R. H. HIERS
DAVID & GRISELDA FORBES
ROBERT W. UDY
DAVID L. AUTH
ALICE M. TYLER
MRS. R. G. ROYCE
WALLACE & MARY BREY
DAN & MOLLY PEARSON
CHIP DEUTSCH
MARY F. RHODES

JERRY M. THOMPSON
JOHN R. SHARPE
WILLIAM H. ADAMS
CATHERINE W. LEE
ROBERT KNIGHT
LINDA H. HOLT
20-24 YEARS

FROMBERG-RENO FAMILY
STEPHEN W. FLETCHER
CARMINE LANCANI
K. CANTWELL
T. J. WRONSKI
ROBERT HOLT
JERRY J. DONALDSON
RENEE ANDREWS
LORETTA F. PERSON
REBECCA ENNEIS
JACQUILYN S. ROBERTS
ANDREA BRINSKO
D. DOHRMANN
J. HOLLEY TAYLOR
MARION W. HYLTON
DAVID YONUTAS
JOSEPH W. ALBA
MR. & MRS. STEVEN NOLL
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