



The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society

FALL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 13, 7:00 AM

Hamilton County Mines

Meet trip leader Jerry Krummrich at the tag agency on NW 34th Street just south of US-441 (across from the old ABC Liquors) or call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] to arrange to meet closer to the destination. These flooded phosphate mines attract many species of waterfowl such as Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, American Widgeon, and Northern Pintail. In recent years, field trip participants have also found Horned Grebes and flocks of shorebirds such as Long-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper. The brush along the pond margins usually holds a good variety of sparrows and other passerines. Bring a lunch and plenty of water and plan to stay into the afternoon. Trip difficulty: 3

Sunday, November 21, 8:00 AM

La Chua Trail (or alternate venue)

Meet at DEP District HQ: going east on University Avenue, cross Waldo Road, turn right onto SE 15th Street, and proceed 2½ miles. When the road turns left, keep going

straight across the 3-way intersection, through the gate, and down the road to the parking lot. **Be on time! When the ranger shuts the gate, there's no way in.** La Chua Trail may be Alachua County's premier perennial winter hotspot for sparrows and raptors. From the diverse forest of the prairie margin to the grassy and often wet prairie flatland, this hike offers an opportunity to see it all. Meet your Audubon guide at the entrance to the park district headquarters and La Chua Trail head. If La Chua trail is still underwater the walk may be changed to another trail if needed. Trip difficulty: 2-3

Saturday, December 4, 8:00 AM

Chapman's Pond (or alternate venue)

NOTE: Conditions at Chapman's Pond are extremely variable. Field trip leaders will scout the area and plan alternatives if conditions are not favorable. Otherwise, there are few better places in the area to make very careful observations of ducks and wading birds than Chapman's Pond. Spotting scope views of birds are

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Alachua Audubon Society Website

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud

Add it to your favorites and visit us for all the latest updates and/or changes for field trips and programs, as well as information on good birding spots in the area.

Around The County... *By Bubba Scales*

It's fortunate that Palm Point was accessible on September 27 when most of the area's birding spots were covered in water and obstructed by fallen trees. It's also fortunate that John Hintermister and Bob Wallace were two of the many birders at Palm Point on that morning. Together, John and Bob discovered that there was a single **Black-capped Petrel** among the many terns and gulls coursing over Newnan's Lake. This sighting of Black-capped Petrel is not only a first for Alachua County, it is also only the third inland record (should it be accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society's Records Committee) of that species for the entire state.

In spite of the major storm events ripping through the heart of this fall migration and the inevitable negative consequences that hurricanes have on the amount of bird activity, birders from around the county managed to turn this migratory bird season into one of the most memorable in recent history. On September 24, Tim Spahr found the county's fourth **Canada Warbler** of the fall on Bolen Bluff. On October 17, Rex Rowan observed the fall's second and the county's 11th **Philadelphia Vireo** in his NE Gainesville yard. Pat Burns and Ruth Palenik had also seen a Philadelphia Vireo at Loblolly Environmental

Center on October 5. On October 21, Andy Kratter found the county's fifth **Swainson's Warbler** of the fall at Bolen Bluff.

Just as birders were beginning to suspect that warbler migration had passed without incident, Pat Burns turned in a report of 17 species of warbler from Bolen Bluff on October 4. On the following day, Rex Rowan observed 18 species and, finally, Andy Kratter observed 18 species of warbler at Bolen Bluff on the 21st including Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green. Geoff Parks observed the county's latest-ever **Golden-winged Warbler** on the 21st. Bob Carroll and Becky Enneis reported a **Wilson's Warbler** from Bolen Bluff on the 24th. Pat Burns and Ruth Palenik observed a **Nashville Warbler** at Chapman's Pond on the 27th.



The urge to migrate has also overcome a few sparrows. On October 14, Andy Kratter reported the first sparrows of the season from Bolen Bluff – a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and two **Swamp Sparrows**. Pat Burns and Ruth Palenik observed a **White-crowned Sparrow** at Chapman's Pond on the 27th and Ron Robinson had the season's first **Chipping Sparrow** at a feeder in his NW Gainesville yard on the 26th.

Thank you to all who submitted reports through October 29.

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 per issue. *The Crane* is printed on recycled paper.

Program Date Change

The February program "*Home Sweet Home*" on Florida Wildlife care and Boards and Gourds originally scheduled for the 19th has been moved to the 26th of February—still at 2 PM at the Millhopper Library. This will allow the library to book a dance troop celebrating Black History Month to perform. So please make a note to your calendar!

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the norm from the observation area. Shorebirds are often spotted along the edge of the pond and warblers and sparrows are usually a bonus. Chapman's Pond has been one of Ron Robinson's special projects! Meet him at the Home Depot on Tower Rd. about 0.3 miles south of Newberry Rd and enjoy an informative trip. Trip difficulty: 1

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Alachua Audubon thanks all of the generous supporters who have donated funds so that the Audubon educational materials for children, *Audubon Adventures*, will be used by 40 teachers in schools here in Alachua County. Also, a very special thank you to Karen Ahlers of Hawthorne who has solicited funds from individuals and businesses so that 62 teachers in Putnam County will be using *Audubon Adventures* with their classes. Working through downed trees and a powerless computer, Karen has put forth great effort to provide these school materials! We thank our donors in Alachua County: Carol Alderson, John R. Sharpe, John Ennis, Claire and Betty Schelske, Audrey and Jape Taylor, Mr. And Mrs. E. E. Muschlitz, Barbara Fearney, Karen Johnson, Mary Louise Brey, Martha E. King, Tom Carr, John Winn, Alice M. Tyler, Mary Clench, Elynor Lee, Kate Lee, Paul Moler, Carroll and Doris A. Tichenor, Susan Rout, and Mary Lou and Don Eitzman among others.

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The Alachua Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources.

Trinidad and Tobago

A Birder's Paradise

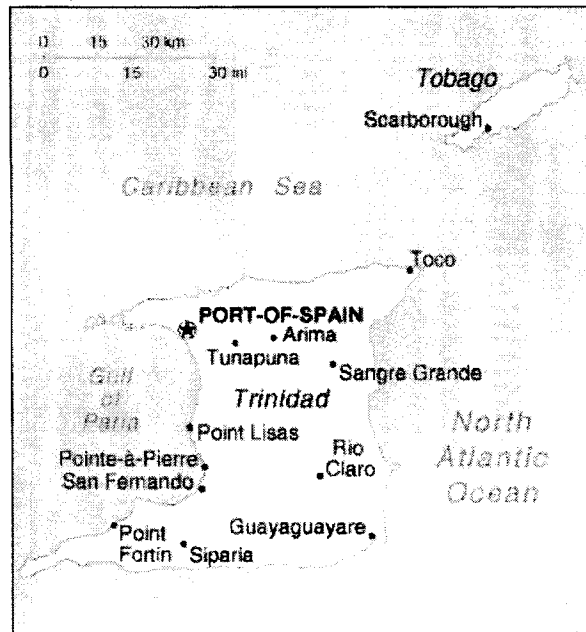
By Howard Adams

Day 1-*The Gathering*-June 6

It was shortly before 8:30 AM on a quiet Sunday morning when Barbara Mollison and I arrived at Mary Landsman's home to meet John Hintermister, Mike Manetz, Lloyd Davis, and Bob Simons. After our good-byes to family and friends we eagerly headed south to pickup the eighth "Feather Quester" Greg McDermott who had flown down from Washington DC to rendezvous with us in Orlando. Our first stop was Pembroke Pines in search of Purple Swamp hens. As we were driving to a possible site near the library John spotted them in a marshy area behind a fire station. We pulled out our scopes and we able to get nice looks at them—they are much larger than our native Purple Gallinule. We then headed south for Barry College where Mary had seen Spot-breasted Orioles on a previous trip to South Florida. We searched the area extensively with no luck but were able to find a Hill Myna perched in a tall pine. After taking a circuitous route through the concrete jungle of Miami we finally reached our hotel next to the Miami International Airport.

Day 2-*Winging Our Way*-June 7

Since our British West Indies Airlines flight was not until late afternoon we spent the morning canvassing the neighborhood for parrots along a nicely shaded walkway that meandered by the Miami Springs Country Club and Curtiss Parkway. We had nice looks at Monk parrots feeding on the ground along with Orange-winged and Mealy parrots circling overhead. With some digging Greg and Mike were able to pick out a surprisingly late Blackpoll Warbler that had been singing from the tree canopy. After dropping the vans off at 'Fast Park' we were immediately whisked to the airport. Unfortunately our arriving flight was 45-minutes late. As our Boeing 737-800 jet headed south we were able to distinguish some of the Caribbean Islands as we flew over them. After 3 hours and 40 minutes we touched down at Piarco International Airport—12 miles east of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. After clearing customs and immigrations we were met by **Wildways-Caribbean Adventure Travel**. Director Andy Whitwell and



Martyn Kenefick our bird guide quickly loaded our gear into our transport. It was around 10 PM when we boarded our Maxi-taxi for the 1 hour 45 minute drive to Mt. Plaisir Hotel on the far north shore of the island. I believe Greg was able to spy our first bird a Cattle egret from the overhead lights of the airport.

Day 3-*The Adventure Begins*-June 8

After a few hours of sleep we were off at 5:30 AM in hopes of seeing the only endemic bird—the pawi or Trinidad Piping Guan. As we began our mountainous trek we could hear the gentle pounding of the surf of the Caribbean behind us in Grande Riviere Bay. It did not take long for our sprightly step up through the sleepy village of Grande Riviere to become a snail's pace by the time we reach our first destination—a hill top clearing along Monte Video trace where the pawi were know to roost in nutmeg trees early in the morning. June is the beginning of the wet season and we had a few light showers and plenty of mud as we plodded up and down the hillside roads. It was obvious almost immediately how out of shape we were. The strenuous hike up and down the hillsides taxed our endurance. Although the pawi never made an appearance we were able to see a plentitude of tropical species: Gray-headed kite, Plumbeous kite, Zone-tailed hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Common black-hawk, Yellow-headed cara-

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cara, Blue-headed parrots, Orange-winged parrots, Band-rumped swift, Short-tailed swift, Lesser swallow-tailed swift, White-necked Jacobin, Ruby-topaz hummingbird, Blue-chinned sapphire, White-chested emerald, Copper-rumped hummingbird, Violaceous trogon, Lineated woodpecker, Great kiskadee, Gray kingbird, Short-tailed pygmy tyrant, Tropical mockingbird, Scaled pigeon, Cocoa thrush, Bare-eyed thrush, Crested oropendola, Carib grackle, Yellow oriole, Bananaquit, Purple honeycreeper, Blue dacnis, Violaceous euphonia, Turquoise tanager, Blue-grey tanager, Palm tanager, Silver-beaked tanager, and Blue-black grassquit. We headed back to the hotel for breakfast and our first glimpse of our accommodations in the daylight. Mt. Plaisir is on a white sand beach along the Caribbean Sea where the Grande River flows into this picturesque bay. After brunch some of the group birded along the banks of the river while others paced themselves and birded from the balcony and grounds of the hotel. After dinner we met up with a local guide from the Turtle Protection Programme whose job is to protect the beachheads and nesting turtles along the northern shore. With only the glimmer of a single flashlight we quietly stumbled our way down the beach to experience an extraordinary sight—the nesting of the world's largest turtles, the giant leatherback turtles. And what an experience it was! These 6-foot long female leatherbacks are gigantic—weighing 1,200-lbs. Within 100 yards of the hotel several of these enormous hulks had beached themselves to start the circle of life for the next generation just as their ancient ancestors had done. Earlier that afternoon several of us were able to see the 'volcano-like eruption' of hatchlings from eggs that had been placed deep beneath the sands in a nest 60-days earlier. We also watched these tiny terrapins struggle as they raced over the moonscape of the beach towards the beckoning sea.

Day 4-Gluttons For Punishment-June 9

The next morning we retraced our steps up the hillside of Monte Video trace for another shot at the pawi but alas no luck. We then departed Mt. Plaisir for our next stop near Toco—the northeast corner of the island known as Galera Point where we picked up Bridled, Common, and Roseate terns, along with Laughing gull, Brown pelican and Magnificent frigatebird. We then headed south over the northern range to Hollis Dam and spied perched on a power line a Yellow-rumped

cacique with its brilliant yellow tail. The reservoir has been closed to the public for the past 6 years. But fortunately for us our guides had made arrangements for us to visit the reservoir. The drive up to the dam was quite picturesque. As we ventured up into the valley, the hillsides were carpeted with lush ferns and a menagerie of towering tropical trees. During a light shower at the dam we dined on some local dishes provided by our guides. While standing along the bank of the reservoir we watched a Common Black hawk swoop down and catch a fish less than 50 yards in front of us. We then walked along the tranquil shore of the reservoir as Bearded Bellbirds echoed their must unusual call from their hidden perches across the water. Golden-olive woodpecker, Green kingfisher, White-lined tanager, Violaceous euphonia, Turquoise tanager, Common Black hawk, Purple honeycreeper, Boat-billed flycatcher and Anhinga were also added to our day's list. We then headed to Arima forest where we encountered huge swarms of flying termites. We located a White-bearded and Gold-headed manakin, near the trailhead. It was near dark when we arrived at Pax Guest House and Mt. St. Benedict Church. Pax Guest House is the oldest in Trinidad established in 1916. Upon our arrival, the manager Jared pointed out a Ferruginous pygmy owl he had seen in a tree by the parking lot. Later during our stay Lloyd watched it devour one of the ubiquitous Palm tanagers. After getting settled in most of us headed to the lower veranda and the gallon-size hummingbird feeders and platform trays. The feeders are restocked twice a day providing us a pagent of brilliantly colored birds to watch.

Day5-So Many Birds-June 10

First stop was Valsayn rice fields where Martyn had done some fieldwork. It was quite muddy but we were able to locate a Little blue heron, Yellow-hooded blackbird, Wattled jacana, Yellow-chinned spinetail, Masked yellowthroat, Striated heron, Pied- and White-headed marsh tyrant, Purple gallinule, Common moorhen, and Great egret. From there we headed to Sumaria trace which was a lovely little marsh near town. We had great looks at Striped cuckoos, Snowy egret, Tricolored heron, Fork-tailed flycatcher, Tropical mockingbird, Smooth-billed ani, Blue-black grassquit, Red-capped cardinal, some distant Scarlet ibis, and a Stripe-backed bittern. At Carli Bay we found Red-breasted blackbirds, Saffron finch, Long-winged harrier, and a Savannah hawk standing by the road

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shoulder. Our next stop was along the Gulf of Paria and the shallow mud flats at Brickfield. There we scoped the Yellow-billed tern, Large-billed tern and numerous Collared plovers, that were congregating with some old friends: Black skimmers, Semi-palmated and Western sandpipers, Ruddy turnstones, Yellow-crowned night herons, Whimbrel, Spotted sandpiper and Tropical kingbirds. The highlight of the day was seeing numerous perched Scarlet Ibis at Caroni Swamp—their unbelievable brilliant color is due to the carotenoids or small crustaceans and small fish that contain carotene. It was interesting watching the hordes of Tree crabs climbing up the prop roots of the Red Mangroves. Also at Caroni we found Black-bellied whistling ducks, Greater and lesser yellowlegs, Rufous-browed pepper-shrike, Yellow-breasted flycatcher, Brown-crested flycatcher, Bi-colored conebills, and Yellow-crowned night herons. Later we took a guide operated boat tour of Caroni swamp and found a Common potoo, Anhinga, Antshrike, and Southern lapwing.

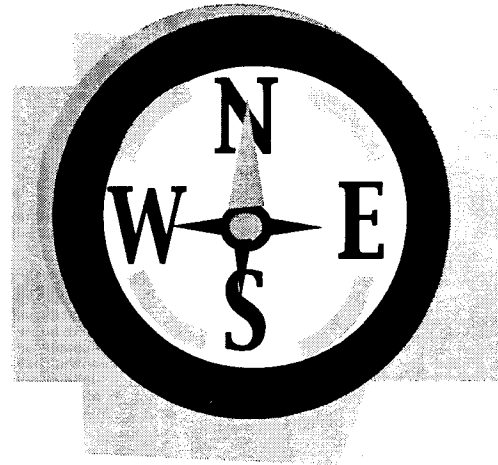
Day 6-In The Clouds-June 11

We had an early 4:30 AM departure for Morne Bleu—a telecommunication and scatter station. From the mountain top we were able to look down upon Gray-rumped swifts, Speckled, Turquoise, Bay-headed and Swallow tanagers, Red, Green and Purple honeycreepers, Blue dactylis, Copper-rumped hummingbird, White-chested emerald, Channel-billed toucans, White-tailed trogons, and Dusky-capped flycatcher. We then headed down the other side of the northern range via Blanchisseuse Road. We took a side trip and hiked down a scenic hillside at Las Lapas junction. The heavily canopied rain forest road provided relatively nice looks at not only birds but also the interesting flora. We stopped at a beach park for lunch not far from where the Marianne River reaches the Caribbean Sea. Although the wind from the bay was quite stiff we were able to circle like vultures upon the lunch table. After lunch we took a short stroll to the Marianne River Estuary. We crossed a suspension bridge to the other side of the river in search of a target bird and with the aid of a tape were able to coax a Silvered antbird from a bamboo thicket. The songster provided us with a lovely performance from

his perch on the opposite side of the river. We continued to check for other inhabitant and Lloyd saw bits and pieces of a very elusive Grey-necked wood Rail. Of course those of us that did not see the bird were certain that it was only a 'free roaming chicken'. Returned to Pax.

Day 7-Lost In Bush-Bush-June 12

Today we headed for the Atlantic side of the island and Nariva swamp. The first part of the journey is through a narrow channel of mangrove via a small boat. The mangroves opened to a broad wetland savannah and then to Bush-Bush—Bush-bush is an island covered with tropical trees and a region of rich biological diversity. This is the site where conservationists are releasing Blue and yellow macaws to repopulate the country. White-bellied antbird, Scarlet-bellied macaws and Yellow-crowned parrot were also seen. Bob located a Rainbow boa, while John found a Black-crested antshrike sitting on a nest. Near the boat landing we found a family of not only Red howler and Capuchin monkeys but also atop a dead snag a family of Bat-falcons which later circled us as we departed. It was just before dusk when we arrived at Waller field, an old abandoned US Army airfield of World War II vintage. As we were waiting for the local drag racers to leave we were able to locate Pale-vented pigeon, Sulphury flycatcher, Bran-colored flycatcher and Fork-tailed palm swift. As darkness fell we meandered around the airfield with the lights of the taxi and a Q-beam in hopes of spotting a White tailed nightjar. We found several that evening but took a number of tries before we could get close enough to get a good look.



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Day 8-Near Heaven-June 13

Had a wonderful breakfast at Pax before our ascent to Asa Wright. Molly our guide at Asa Wright first took us to see the Oilbirds. We slowly hiked down the relatively steep woodland trail and hung on the safety handrails, as the trail was very wet and quite slippery with mud and algae. Once we arrived at the Oilbird roosts, Molly escorted us in small groups of 2-3 into the dimly illuminated and narrow watery gorge. These surprisingly large birds could be viewed in Molly's flashlight beam clinching precariously to the rock ledges. We then climbed back up the trail and continued our exploration of Discovery trail. Some of the wonderful birds we encountered included Golden-crowned warbler and a master of disguise the Common potoo. This bird's camouflage is incredible. It looks exactly like a broken branch and is really difficult to see even when you know where to look. One of the cutest and most interesting birds we found was a number of White-bearded manakins displaying on a lek. These diminutive black and white birds puff up their necks and make firecracker-like sounds as they snap their wings. It took a good part of the morning before we finally had a marvelous look at the logo of Asa Wright—the Bearded Bellbird. Barbara and Howard first spied one of the many shy forest birds that we had been looking for as it skulked along the forest floor a Black-faced antthrush. After a wonderful formal buffet lunch at the main house we all retired to the back veranda. We took our positions along the line of bar stools overlooking the feeders and the beautiful valley that stretched to the horizon. The tropical trees and garden of bird friendly flowering plants is a wonderful oasis that birders must experience. From the balcony there was an almost constant arrival and departure of hummingbirds to the many flowering plants and feeders. Other bird gems frequented the ripening fruit for the birds to indulge in. We had wonderful looks at least 7 species of hummingbirds including Little hermit and Tufted cocquette. One of the most striking and John's most sought after birds finally made an appearance to the tray feeders just below the balcony—a Chestnut woodpecker. Greg was even able to get a couple photos of this handsome bird. Black-tailed tityra, several "neon electric" honeycreepers, and several brilliantly col-

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Monthly Board Meetings

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

FLORIDA BIRDING NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you've ever been birding in our state, we need your advice!

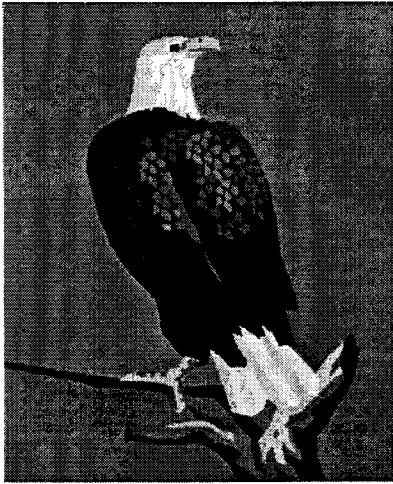
Please take our 15-minute online survey, to share your experiences and insights about Florida birding. Your input will help shape the future of the Great Florida Birding Trail and demonstrate the value of birds and birding to Florida communities. All responses are anonymous and cannot be traced to your email address, so there is no chance of spam from our survey.

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"Florida's Bald Eagles vs. Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne"



After an unprecedented FOUR hurricanes in six weeks caused damage statewide, the Audubon EagleWatch Program, headquartered at Audubon Center for

Birds of Prey in Maitland, is receiving numerous reports that Bald Eagle nests and nest trees are either damaged, completely down or the area has sustained considerable loss of the nest and all surrounding trees. This will be a challenging year for eagles in Florida as they return to their nest territories, survey the natural damage, and decide to repair their nests, rebuild in alternate trees or even utilize man-made structures such as cell and utility towers. Typically, eagle nesting season in Florida begins in October and extends thru May.

Audubon is currently compiling data on these hurricane-impacted nests and injured eagles.

Preliminary information from EagleWatch volunteers reported in late September that of 102 territories in 23 counties, 45 eagle nests are gone, including the complete loss of 16 nest trees; 9 nests sustained damage and 16 nest trees are damaged. Additional statistical data is also being compiled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Audubon members EagleWatch volunteers are encouraged to contact Center Supervisor Dianna Flynt (Dflynt@audubon.org) or Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, Lynda White (Lwhite@audubon.org) at the Center

(407-644-0190) with any information they may have on this issue. Florida wildlife rehabilitators have been cautioned that they may see an increase in eagles injured in territory fights as they compete for reduced nesting habitat. As always, the Audubon Center and EagleWatch will continue to provide assistance for eagle care and rehabilitation, as well as locating and monitoring active eagle territories.

The multi-hurricanes' resulting population impact on many wildlife species, including Bald Eagles, is currently unknown. Collecting and publishing data on what effect a natural disaster has on a species may help us to manage the remaining habitat more efficiently, as well as understand the potential population impacts of future natural or man-made disasters.

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is a raptor rehabilitation and environmental educational center, open to the public, that admits 650 - 750 sick, injured and orphaned raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites and osprey) annually, including an average of 55 Bald Eagles. The Audubon EagleWatch Program is a statewide Bald Eagle nest-monitoring program. Currently, EagleWatch volunteers monitor over 20% of Florida's nesting eagles, with 240 volunteers active in 39 counties watching 282 nests. EagleWatch data also supplements state and federal wildlife agencies' eagle nesting data. For information on joining EagleWatch and attending one of this year's workshops, contact Lynda White. For more information about the Audubon Center, visit www.audubonofflorida.org.

**8th Annual Space Coast Birding
and Wildlife Festival**
November 17-21, 04
Brevard Community College
Titusville, Florida

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ored tanagers completed the bird performance that afternoon. Truly a heavenly place to view tropical birds of all kinds. After tearing ourselves from the balcony we headed down the valley to the Aripo Livestock Farm. There we located Grassland-yellow finch and Ruddy-breasted seedeater and had marvelous looks at a Savannah hawk.

Day 9-*A New Tropical Isle*-June 14

After a short 20-minute flight on Tobago Express we arrive at Crown Point Airport. At the airport Caribbean martins were common. We then loaded up into an A/C Maxi-taxi and headed to small retention ponds and quickly spied 2 Little egrets-one in breeding plumage. We also found several White-cheeked pintail ducks languishing on the shore. From there we walked a short distance to view the ocean and saw a pair of nesting Red-capped woodpeckers in a tall palm. Several Black-faced grassquit or 'Johnny-jump-ups' leaped into view as they jumped a couple of feet straight up and then quickly flutter back down to their original perch. We had a wonderful Indian box lunch at Grafton Nature Sanctuary and then hiked around the loop trail. Bob was glad to see the Rufous-vented chachalaca dusting themselves during the afternoon heat. We also had wonderful looks at the beautiful Blue-crowned motmots. Their long tails moving back and forth reminded me of an inverted metronome. Hiding in the tall bamboo we were able to locate a pair of Rufous-tailed jacamars. Their brilliant colors easily rivals that of the hummingbirds. Red-rumped woodpecker, Blue-back manakin, White-fringed antwren, Brown-crested flycatcher, Eared doves, and a Fuscous flycatcher were present along the wide and nicely shaded trail.

Day 10-*Mountains To Shore*-June 15

The next morning we had a long bus ride to the eastern part of the Tobago Rain Forest Reserve—the oldest forest reserve in the Western Hemisphere that has been protected by law since 1776. We walked up the road from Bloody Bay and found a Giant cowbird and Orange-winged parrots. Gilpin trail is a truly beautiful narrow trail that winds its way along a lovely mountain stream through the lush rainforest. Here we found Rufous-breasted hermit, Plain antvireo, Rufous-antwren, Cocoa



woodcreeper, Rufous-breasted wrens, more Blue-crested motmots, Rufous-tailed jacamars, and one of the rarest birds of the trip the White-tailed sabbrewings. We then headed down the mountain to the coast for a relaxing lunch at Jemma's tree-house. While dining we had live performances from several singing Carib grackles at our table perched on the backs of the chairs. Along the road to Speyside we saw a lone Broad-winged hawk. Near King's Bay we found Tropical peewee, nesting Rufous-tailed jacamars in a road cut and more honeycreepers. At Blue Water Inn we took a water taxi to Little Tobago. On the beach we were shown a nesting Audubon's shearwater in its earthen abode. The hike up to the top was steep but worth the effort. From one of the overlooks we could see a dozen Red-billed tropicbirds, three Red-footed boobies (white and brown phase), Brown booby, Brown noddies, Laughing gulls and Sooty, Common and Bridled terns. On the journey back to Tobago our glass-bottom boat guide showed us some of the beautiful marine coral gardens and brightly colored fish that dwell in the shallow waters between the two islands.

Day 11-*Epilogue*-June 16

As of December 31, 2003, 463 bird species had been observed in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. On our 10-day adventure to the islands the 'feather questers' were able to tally 215 or around 46%. Spectacular birds, great company, good food, marvelous scenery, detailed planning and organization made this trip a wonderful experience that we all can reminisce about for years to come.

☞ **Next Crane Deadline November 14** ☞



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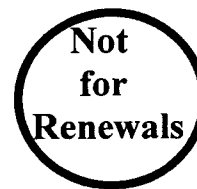
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Chapter E-18

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