



The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society

WINTER - SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 12, 8:00 AM
Cone's Dike via Camp Canal

Limited to 15 participants - Please call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] to make a reservation. Meet at Powers Park on Hawthorne Road/SR 20. Trip leader Adam Kent will escort the group to a restricted area which we will use by special permission. Cone's Dike Trail can often produce a good diversity of sparrows and occasional winter rarities. Trip difficulty: 3

Saturday, March 5, 8:00 AM
Orange Creek Restoration Area

Explore this newly-opened birding location at the eastern edge of Orange Lake. Drained for cropland fifty years ago, it has recently been restored to freshwater marsh and can be an excellent spot for sparrows, ducks, raptors, and other open-country birds. Meet field trip leader Rex Rowan at Powers Park on Hawthorne Road/SR 20 and carpool to OCRA to explore this exciting new acquisition of the St. Johns River Water Management District. Trip difficulty: 2

Saturday, March 19, 8:00 AM
Wildflowers with Dana Griffin

Focus on flowers with one of the university town's most beloved botanists, naturalists, and trip

leaders. Dr. Griffin's wildflower trips are always as entertaining as they are educational. Meet your field trip leader in the parking lot of the University of Florida Bookstore II (SW 34th St. and SW 20th Ave) and proceed out Archer Road toward Cedar Key. Dr. Griffin will have several strategic stops planned along the route to Cedar Key. Trip difficulty: 2

Saturday, April 2, 7:00 AM
Ocala National Forest

Meet trip leader Bob Simons in the parking lot of the University of Florida Bookstore II (SW 34th St. and SW 20th Ave) for this locally legendary field trip to the Ocala National Forest. Bob presents the natural features of the forest from a broad ecological perspective. Expect to learn as much about plants and mammals as you do about birds. Avian highlights in the Ocala National Forest include Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrow, and the Florida Scrub-Jay. Pack water, a snack, and dress for exposure. Trip difficulty: 3

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 AM
Bolen Bluff Trail

Meet at the Bolen Bluff trailhead and canvas the canopy of one of Gainesville's perennial best

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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*

An Alachua County birder's checklist from a 'winter' morning might include six or more species of warbler but Wilson's and Nashville wouldn't often be among them. However, Steve Collins and Mike Manetz each had a **Wilson's Warbler** on November 20; Steve's from the Hague Dairy and Mike's from Kanapaha Gardens. Mike also observed a **Winter Wren** at Kanapaha that morning, one of only about 20 ever reported from the county. Exactly one week later, Adam Kent found a **Nashville Warbler** in a public park on SW 6th St. During the Christmas Bird Count on December 19, Scott Robinson and others found the season's second Nashville Warbler at Kanapaha Gardens (full CBC data reported separately).

Sarah Rowan broke the proverbial **Purple Finch** seal on November 29 with her observation of one female of that species at the Rowan family birdfeeder in NE Gainesville. Since then, Purple

Finch sightings from around the county have occurred regularly making this the most active Purple Finch season in recent memory. John Martin's account of eight in his NW Gainesville constitutes the season's largest flock to date. By the way, Sarah reports that her solitary female finch visited the Rowan feeder again today, January 25.

Pat Burns observed three **Fox Sparrows** at the end of O'Leno State Park's River Trail on December 10. Judy Bryan went to O'Leno on the 13th in hopes of finding Pat's Fox Sparrows. She missed the sparrows but did find a **Brown Creeper**. Greg McDermott turned up another highly notable sparrow sighting this winter. He and Rex Rowan went to the Hague Dairy on December 20 and found a **Lark Sparrow**.

Area birders have hit the Hague Dairy pretty hard since then in search of the Lark Sparrow and have had great results. Most notably, Pat Burns found a curious looking wigeon (duck) on December 22 of which Steve Collins took some good photos. The photos were forwarded to all corners of cyberspace and after



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Next Crane Deadline March 12

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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.

GAINESVILLE, FL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 19, 2004

Here are the results of Gainesville's 47th CBC. It has been a goal of our chapter to reach the level of count circles with 150 species or more recorded and this year we reached that goal. If all of our rare bird documentation reports are accepted our chapter should make the list in the 105th compilation of CBC's by American Birds. I would like to thank all the participants listed below that may this dream come true. New high totals for species are bolded.

Howard Adams, Anne Barkdoll, Dave Beatty, Robin Beckett, Elizabeth Bell, Tom Bell, Pat Burns, Bob Carroll, Bruce Christensen, Steve Collins, Michael Drummond, Joni Ellis, Becky Enneis, Dan Evans, Scott Flamand, Jeff Foster, Lee Gordon, Linda Hensley, Susie Hetrick, John Hintermister, V., Tom Hoctor, Steve Hofstetter, Jeff Hoover, Scarlett Howell, Karen Johnson, Marcy Jones, Maralee Joos, Adam Kent, Grace Kiltie, Richard Kiltie, Martha King, Bob Knight, Andy Kratter, Mary Landsman, Philip Laipis, Ria Leonard, Mike Manetz, John Martin, Greg McDermott, Brian McNab, Karl Miller, Lisa Medola, Michael Meisenburg, Barbara Mollison, Ginger Morgan, Don Morrow, Barbara Muschlitz, Mike Paczolt, Craig Parenteau, Geoffrey Parks, Dan Pearson, Stefan Rayer, Alice Reakes, Dottie Robbins, Scott Robinson, Rex Rowan, Debbie Segal, Bubba Scales, Bob Simons, Ann Stodola, Paul Stodola, Christine Stracey, Linda Terry, Alice Tyler, Carsten Vala, Bob Wallace, Jim Walls, Helen Warren, Tom Webber, and Brad Williams

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	73	Little Blue Heron	85	Common Moorhen	183
Snow Goose (white)	1	Tricolored Heron	14	American Coot	965
Muscovy Duck	198	Cattle Egret	228	Sandhill Crane	2,693
Wood Duck	232	Green Heron	14	Killdeer	196
Gadwall	9	Black-crowned Night-Heron	73	Black-necked Stilt	3
Mallard	29	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	2	Greater Yellowlegs	26
Mottled Duck	17	White Ibis	814	Lesser Yellowlegs	7
Blue-winged Teal	254	Glossy Ibis	276	Willet	1
Northern Shoveler	4	White-faced Ibis	1	Least Sandpiper	120
Green-winged Teal	330	Wood Stork	7	Dunlin	16
Redhead	2	Black Vulture	173	Long-billed Dowitcher	12
Ring-necked Duck	62	Turkey Vulture	654	Wilson's Snipe	144
Lesser Scaup	6	Osprey	6	American Woodcock	9
Bufflehead	10	Bald Eagle	67	Bonaparte's Gull	27
Hooded Merganser	158	Northern Harrier	33	Ring-billed Gull	1,516
Ruddy Duck	2	Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	Forster's Tern	5
Wild Turkey	75	Cooper's Hawk	7	Rock Pigeon	114
Northern Bobwhite	13	Accipiter, sp.	2	Eurasian Collared-Dove	71
Common Loon	2	Red-shouldered Hawk	110	Mourning Dove	511
Pied-billed Grebe	98	Red-tailed Hawk	37	Eastern Screech-Owl	11
Double-crested Cormorant	900	American Kestrel	30	Great Horned Owl	16
Anhinga	126	Merlin	1	Barred Owl	19
American Bittern	6	King Rail	8	Whip-poor-will	1
Great Blue Heron	114	Virginia Rail	4	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	1
Great Egret	165	Sora	23	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1
Snowy Egret	41	Purple Gallinule	1		

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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.

CEDAR KEY, FL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 30, 2004

Blame it on the fine weather, the extreme tides, or the kayaks and sailboats that were dotting the channel where the sea ducks should have been, but the results for the 2004 Cedar Key Count were disappointing. Only 129 species were counted and most of the numbers were down noticeably. There were bright spots, however. The Sandhill Crane heard by the Hwy 347 group was new for the count. Barbara Muschlitz found a Yellow-breasted Chat while sitting out the hike the rest of her team made to find the Scrub Jays in the Cedar Key Scrub Reserve. Brian McNab spotted a male Surf Scoter within a raft of Lesser Scaup between Atsena Otie and Seahorse Key. Brian also found a Western Kingbird on the northern side of Seahorse. (He found one the previous year also on Seahorse Key.) New highs were tallied for Snowy Egret (116) and American Avocet (77). The 2005 count is scheduled for Thursday, December 29th, 2005. Dale C.Henderson

Compilers: Ron Christen and Dale Henderson. Other observers: Howard Adams, Steve Barlow, Margaret Flagg, Linda Hensley, John Hintermister, Grace Kiltie, Richard Kiltie, Ken Litzenberger, Doug Maple, Brian McNab, Barbara Mollison, Don Morrow, Barbara Muschlitz, Alice Reakes, Betty Smocovitis, Buck Snelson, Martha Wayne. *Bold-faced numbers are new highs. Bold-faced species is new to the count.*

Common Loon..... 19	Common Moorhen..... 1	Great Horned Owl..... 4
Pied-billed Grebe..... 02	Sandhill Crane 1	Barred Owl..... 9
Horned Grebe..... 02	Black-bellied Plover..... 59	Belted Kingfisher..... 23
Am White Pelican..... 122	Wilson's Plover..... 1	Red-bell. Woodpecker..... 42
Brown Pelican..... 62	Semipalmated Plover..... 100	Ylw-bell. Sapsucker..... 9
Dbl-cr Cormorant..... 1,400	Killdeer..... 23	Downy Woodpecker..... 13
Anhinga..... 3	Am. Oystercatcher..... 343	Northern Flicker..... 1
Great Blue Heron..... 99	American Avocet..... 77	Pileated Woodpecker..... 14
Great Egret..... 158	Greater Yellowlegs..... 23	Eastern Phoebe..... 25
Snowy Egret..... 116	Willet..... 1,056	Western Kingbird..... 1
Little Blue Heron..... 7	Spotted Sandpiper..... 6	White-eyed Vireo..... 4
Tricolored Heron..... 14	Whimbrel..... 10	Blue-headed Vireo..... 7
Green Heron..... 1	Long-billed Curlew..... 1	Blue Jay..... 20
Black-crowned Night-Heron 11	Marbled Godwit..... 91	Florida Scrub-Jay..... 8
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 8	Ruddy Turnstone..... 324	American Crow..... 10
Wood Stork..... 10	Red Knot..... 100	Fish Crow..... 32
Black Vulture..... 4	Sanderling..... 200	Tree Swallow..... 33
Turkey Vulture..... 91	Western Sandpiper..... 1,900	Carolina Chickadee..... 14
Wood Duck..... 17	Least Sandpiper..... 300	Tufted Titmouse..... 13
Mallard, Feral..... 28	Peep, sp..... 300	Carolina Wren..... 34
Lesser Scaup..... 1,193	Dunlin..... 2,000	House Wren..... 17
Surf Scoter..... 1	Short-billed Dowitcher ... 1,400	Sedge Wren..... 6
Bufflehead..... 147	Wilson's Snipe..... 2	Marsh Wren..... 18
Common Goldeneye..... 1	American Woodcock..... 3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet..... 41
Hooded Merganser..... 41	Laughing Gull..... 100	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher..... 11
Red-breasted Merganser..... 53	Ring-billed Gull..... 2,000	Eastern Bluebird..... 12
Osprey..... 21	Herring Gull..... 48	Hermit Thrush..... 22
Bald Eagle..... 16	Caspian Tern..... 7	American Robin..... 2,800
Northern Harrier..... 3	Royal Tern..... 19	Gray Catbird..... 62
Sharp-shinned Hawk..... 1	Forster's Tern..... 224	Northern Mockingbird..... 68
Red-shouldered Hawk..... 7	Black Skimmer..... 222	Brown Thrasher..... 5
Red-tailed Hawk..... 2	Eur. Collared Dove..... 86	European Starling..... 11
American Kestrel..... 2	White-winged Dove..... 1	Cedar Waxwing..... 447
Northern Bobwhite..... 9	Mourning Dove..... 56	Orange-crowned Warbler..... 2
Clapper Rail..... 15	Common Ground Dove..... 19	Yellow-rumped Warbler ... 523
Sora..... 1	Eastern Screech Owl..... 20	

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Around The County

much discussion among some of the world's leading experts in the identification of birds, the consensus is that Pat's wigeon is a **Eurasion Wigeon**. The county's only other record of Eurasion Wigeon was a bird killed on Orange Lake in December of 1931. Cool!

Thanks to all who submitted reports through January 25.

(Continued from page 4) CK CBC

Yellow-throated Warbler	3
Pine Warbler	12
Prairie Warbler.....	1
Palm Warbler	31
Black-&-White Warbler.....	8
Common Yellowthroat.....	29
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	1
Eastern Towhee.....	54
Chipping Sparrow	105
Field Sparrow.....	1
Savannah Sparrow.....	3
Nelson's Sharp-t Sp.....	4
Seaside Sparrow.....	3
Song Sparrow.....	12
Swamp Sparrow	18
White-throated Sparrow.....	2
Northern Cardinal	59
Red-winged Blackbird	180
Eastern Meadowlark	2
Common Grackle	44
Boat-tailed Grackle	38
American Goldfinch.....	117
House Sparrow.....	61
Number of species.....	129
Number of individuals ..	19,975

(Continued from page 3) GNV CBC

Archilochus, sp	2
Belted Kingfisher.....	56
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker ...	244
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker ...	73
Downy Woodpecker	102
Northern Flicker.....	81
Pileated Woodpecker	75
Eastern Phoebe.....	300
Vermilion Flycatcher	1
Loggerhead Shrike.....	61
White-eyed Vireo.....	56
Yellow-throated Vireo	1
Blue-headed Vireo	68
Blue Jay	259
American Crow.....	435
Fish Crow	129
crow, sp.....	166
Tree Swallow	1,405
Barn Swallow.....	1
Carolina Chickadee.....	93
Tufted Titmouse.....	272
Brown-headed Nuthatch	3
Carolina Wren.....	342
House Wren	134
Sedge Wren.....	8
Marsh Wren	16
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	606
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	291
Eastern Bluebird	163
Hermit Thrush.....	69
American Robin.....	1,297
Gray Catbird	140
Northern Mockingbird	243
Brown Thrasher	38
European Starling	128
American Pipit.....	4
Cedar Waxwing	181
Blue-winged Warbler.....	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	35
Nashville Warbler.....	1
Northern Parula.....	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler .	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler .	3,260
Yellow-throated Warbler	35
Pine Warbler	157
Prairie Warbler	2
Palm Warbler.....	638
Black-and-white Warbler.....	59
American Redstart	1
Ovenbird.....	4
Northern Waterthrush	3
Common Yellowthroat	147
Wilson's Warbler	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Eastern Towhee	139
Chipping Sparrow.....	121
Field Sparrow	13
Vesper Sparrow	23
Savannah Sparrow	110
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	4
Henslow's Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	64
Swamp Sparrow.....	130
White-throated Sparrow.....	75
White-crowned Sparrow.....	23
Dark-eyed Junco	4
Northern Cardinal	441
Red-winged Blackbird	8,696
Eastern Meadowlark	169
Common Grackle.....	541
Boat-tailed Grackle.....	1,452
Brown-headed Cowbird.....	13
Baltimore Oriole.....	57
House Finch.....	53
Pine Siskin	1
American Goldfinch	480
House Sparrow	128
Total.....	152 species
Number of individuals ..	36,919

(Continued from page 1)

Spring Field Trips

migratory birding spots with one of its best birders. Mike Manetz will lead this early-season trip to Bolen Bluff for evidence of passerine migration. Pop out onto the prairie on the prairie spur to look for late-season sparrows and open-country birds such as swallows. Trip difficulty: 1



Rally for the River — February 19-20, 2005





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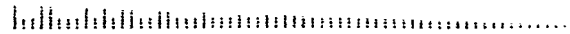
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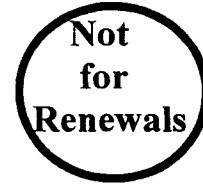
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If you have any questions, contact Paul
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Chapter E-18

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