



The Crane

Alachua Audubon Society



FALL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, September 17
Migratory Bird Count –
SPECIAL EVENT

Each fall, birders scour the region to get a snapshot of bird migration. Mike Manetz, the event organizer, is seeking experienced birders to help with the count but birders of most skill levels are welcome. The Migratory Bird Count is not a field trip and it requires participants to dedicate an early morning and a full day to birding. If the Migratory Bird Count is the right way for you to start off the new AAS field trip season, then call Mike for details at 377-1683. Otherwise, see the next field trip description...

Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM
Lake Alice

Join field trip leader John Winn in the Bat House parking lot on Museum Road on the UF campus. Lake Alice is one of urban Gainesville's most convenient birding spots. With boardwalks and trails under the dense hardwood canopy, and lakeside observation

points, a birding trip to Lake Alice can produce a great variety of species, especially when songbirds are migrating south. Trip difficulty: 1

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 AM
O'Leno State Park

Meet in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie on the east side of Hwy 441 in High Springs and prepare to carpool from there. Don't forget the **\$4.00/vehicle entry fee**. John Hintermister will lead yet another quest for migrants in one of the state's most enchanting natural areas. Participants will explore sev-

(Continued on page 3)

Trip Difficulty

1) =Most of trip is within easy access to the vehicle and/or walking on level terrain one mile or less.

2) =Trip may involve walking on uneven terrain over one to two (1-2) miles.

3) =Trip may involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and or distances greater than 2 miles.



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.

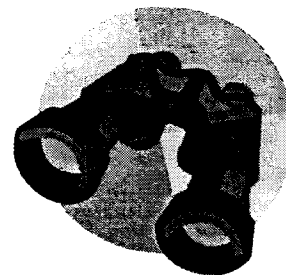
*Around
The County...
By Bubba Scales*

June used to be boring for birders in Alachua County, but Bob Carroll and the heaping handful of local birders who just completed the second annual "June Challenge" might suggest that we just haven't been working hard enough to find birds. Bob was the outright winner of the June Challenge this year with a total of 91 species seen around the county in the month of June. Last year, he and Becky Enneis (who can take credit for starting all of this) tied for the top spot with 100 species each. Among the 100 species that the entire group of competitors observed this year, there was one **American Redstart** that Geoff Parks found at Sugarfoot Prairie on June 9. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** first found by Mike Manetz near Rochelle on CR-235 on May 15 was easily observed throughout June.

Geoff's redstart is the county's new late record for that species but it wasn't the only

surprise of the season. Scott and Glendy Robinson observed a **Cerulean Warbler** in their Alachua yard on April 9 and a **Swainson's Warbler** on April 17. Elizabeth Farley had also found a Swainson's Warbler several days prior to that on the UF campus. Pat Burns and Dotty Robbins found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Bolen Bluff on May 6 and Bob Carroll found a **Nashville Warbler** at Cofrin Nature Park on May 9. The greatest surprise of the season didn't show up until June 4 when Judy Bryan observed an immature **Reddish Egret** – the county's first ever – at Chapman's Pond.

If you missed migration and just learned of the June Challenge, then maybe hurricane season is the next motivational force for you. Here's the plan.



Go to Newnan's Lake. Judy Bryan did on June 11 as Tropical Storm Arlene coursed through the Gulf and she found a light-phase **Short-tailed Hawk**. On July 10, a group of birder went to Newnan's Lake in the wake of Hurricane Dennis

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

eral ecosystems from the mixed hardwood river banks near where the Santa Fe River sinks below the surface to the sand pine scrub of the uplands. Trip difficulty: 2

**Sunday, September 25, 8:00 AM
Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve**

This newly-opened Water Management District property is already one of Alachua County's most exciting birding areas. Join field trip leader Rex Rowan at Powers Park to caravan to Longleaf where you'll explore one of the county's best spots for pinewoods species such as Bachman's Sparrows, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Longleaf's variety of habitats should provide excellent opportunities to observe migrants. Trip difficulty: 3

**Saturday, October 1, 8:00 AM
San Felasco Hammock – Millhopper Road**

Meet your trip leader at San Felasco trailhead on Millhopper Road just east of I-75. Don't forget the \$2.00/vehicle access fee. San Felasco's meandering streams, sinkholes, ridges, and slopes set the stage for a very diverse bird habitat. During migration, many species of passerine birds can be found foraging for fuel throughout the hammock. Last hurricane season, San Felasco Hammock took a beating but is still one of Gainesville's most promising locations for Kentucky War-

➤ **Next Crane Deadline...Sept. 18**

blers and Veeries. Trip difficulty: 2

**Sunday, October 2, 8:00 AM
Palm Point/Lakeshore Drive**

Meet at Palm Point Park (From SR-20 north on Lakeshore Drive 1.5 miles). Trip leader Bob Carroll and participants will explore this migrant hot-spot during the flux of migratory bird movement for warblers, tanagers, thrushes, and more. The lake margins can often be good spots to find early arriving winter residents such as Eastern Phoebe and sparrow species. Trip difficulty: 1

**Saturday, October 8, 8:00 AM
Bolen Bluff**

Meet your field trip leader at the trailhead on the east side of Hwy 441 on the south rim of Paynes Prairie (4.3 miles south of Williston Road). Bolen Bluff is one of Gaines-

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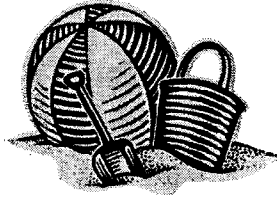


**Monthly Board
Meetings**

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.

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.

**Audubon
Assembly
Goes to the Beach!
Saving our Birds
October 20-22, 2005**



Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife and habitats. **Register by September 28** and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 25, this all-inclusive package is \$125.

The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. **Make your hotel accommodations** directly with the Holiday Inn. Call 1-800-206-2747 or log onto http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&_GPC=AUA&

Assembly participants receive a reduced rate of \$89.99/night, up to 4 in a room. The daily resort fee has been waived and parking is free. **Special rate valid through September 28.** Oceanfront suites and lofts can be reserved, if available, at prevailing rates.

Field Trips will be offered, courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. Look for detailed information in the upcoming **Florida Naturalist** as well as on-line later this month www.audubonofflorida.org. See you there!

Audubon
ADVENTURES

Acquainting young people with the beauties of the natural world and encouraging inquiring minds about our world is the best way to help conserve and protect wildlife. Would you help? Sponsoring Audubon Adventures provides a set of 4 teaching newsletters for a classroom of 32 grade 3, 4, or 5 learners. The four topics for the 05-06 school year are spiders, turtles, dragonflies, and waterbirds. Each teacher receives an extensive teacher guide, a poster, brochures, and a year's membership in Audubon. To sponsor a classroom, each sponsor donates \$42. Would you like to see a sample of the fine materials Audubon is providing to school children? Call Emily Schwartz at 372-0754 and she will send you a free sample newsletter. Hopefully, you will want to become a classroom sponsor!

2005-06 Audubon Adventure Donors

Martha King, John Winn, John Sharpe, Audrey and Jape Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Muschlitz, Don and Mary Lou Eitzman, Mary Clench, Mary Louise Brey, Susan Rout, Barbara Fearney, Claire and Betty Schelske, Karen Johnson, John Ennis, Paul Moler, Alice Tyler, Carrol and Doris Tichenor, Elynor Lee, Thomas Carr, Helen Warren, Barbara Mollison, and H. Adams.

A Special Thank You!

On behalf of the board of Alachua Audubon Society I would like to personally thank Scott Flamand and David Wahl for their years of outstanding service and dedication to the board. As Secretary David kept clear and accurate minutes of the organization and provided the board with helpful reminders of upcoming meetings. Scott as President managed to organize and preside over the monthly board meetings. Scott also did a great deal of work behind the scenes for the organization. Their volunteer services are greatly appreciated.



**Seeking Local Advocates...
For New
Alachua Audubon Society
Conservation Committee**

Several times in the past year, Leslie Straub and I discussed the possibility of forming a Conservation Committee. Fueled by the enthusiasm of board member Helen Warren's new blood and a recently retired Susan Sommerville, we decided to progress on our plan. A July conversation with Bob Simons convinced him to join our ranks. While Alachua Audubon Society often has difficulty filling vacancies on our various committees, I am cautiously optimistic that our new committee will be successful. If you want to join us in identifying issues and planning strategies.

Contact Michael Meisenburg at ecomike@ufl.edu or 495-1791.

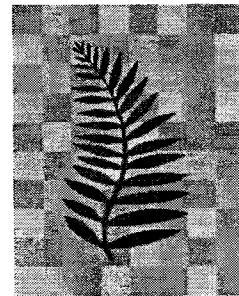
We plan on meeting monthly.

(Continued from page 2)

and found a good bit more activity. Rex Rowan and John Hintermister observed five **Magnificent Frigatebirds** over the lake's western shore in the morning. Geoff Parks and Steve Collins observed two **Sooty Terns** from the crew team parking area.

Alachua Audubon Society's 2005-2006 field trip season will recommence in September. See field trip descriptions in this issue of the Crane. Thanks to all who submitted reports through August 3.

**FALL NATIVE
PLANT SALE!**



The fall native plant sale will be held at Morningside Nature Center on Friday September 16th and Saturday September 17th. Friday evening hours are 4:30-7:00 PM for members of the sponsoring organizations (Non-members can join on the spot). Saturday hours are 8:30 AM-1 PM for general public. Sale is sponsored by the Friends of Nature Parks, Paynes Prairie Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society and Nature Operations Division of the City of Gainesville.

Along with plants there will be information booths, a nature walk and the convenience of 'Park-a Plant'.

(Continued from page 3)

ville's perennial favorite birding locations. The trail rambles through the first patch of forested land that southbound migrants find after crossing the prairie. Assiduous and sometimes lucky birders have found as many as 15 species of warblers here in the fall. Trip difficulty: 2

**Sunday, October 9. 8:00 AM
Gum Root Swamp**

The forested margins of Newnan's Lake are some of area's richest migratory songbird habitat. Join field trip leader Bubba Scales at Powers Park and carpool to Gum Root Swamp where we'll explore as much hardwood swamp as the rising water levels of Hatchet Creek will allow. If possible, we'll traverse the Hatchet Creek bridge and explore a little known area of Water Management District land along the eastern shore of Newnan's Lake. Trip difficulty: 3



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

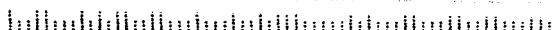
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|--|-----------------|--|
| Fall Native Plant Sale | Sept. 16-17, 05 | Morningside Nature Center, Gainesville, FL |
| Fall Migration Count | Sept. 17, 05 | Alachua County, FL |
| Florida Ornithological Society Meeting | Oct. 14-16, 05 | Mt. Dora/Lake Apopka, FL |
| Alabama Coastal Birdfest 2005 | Oct. 20-23, 05 | Faulkner State C. College, Fairhope, AL |
| Audubon Assembly | Oct. 20-22, 05 | Cocoa Beach, FL |
| Christmas Bird Count | Dec. 18, 05 | Gainesville, FL |
| Rally for the River | Feb. 18-19, 06 | Putnam County, FL |
| AAS Spring Picnic Dinner | April 26, 06 | Gainesville, FL |

Alachua Audubon Society
P. O. Box 140464
Gainesville, Florida 32614-0464

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The Crane
Aug.-Sept. 05

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To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in this application and mail to:
Paul Moler, 7818 Highway 346, Archer, Florida 32618

Please enclose your check payable to:

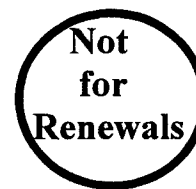
National Audubon Society

If you have any questions, contact Paul
at 495-9419 or pmoler@worldnet.att.net

Chapter E-18

New Membership Application

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Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please check level of membership:

Basic \$35.00 Senior \$15.00 Student \$15.00
 Introductory Membership \$20.00
 Two Years \$30.00