



# The Crane

*Alachua Audubon Society*

Volume 47 Number 6 June/July 2006

---

---

## Summer Field Trips!

Florida birding may not be at its peak during the summer months, but we have a great reason for you to still get out on an AAS field trip! Have you ever been frustrated because someone in the group has located a bird you'd really like to see, but you can't follow their directions to the third limb up of the second slash pine to the left of the sugarberry tree? You'd be fine if you knew a sand pine from a slash pine, or a sugarberry from a sweet gum, but you don't. Cry no more at lost sightings of great birds because of your ignorance of native flora! Alachua Audubon will host two summer field trips focusing on identifying native trees. We have able, knowledgeable, and entertaining trip leaders and hope to see you there. Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, June 10, 8:00 AM**

**San Felasco Hammock with Bob Simons**

Meet at the Millhopper Road entrance to San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park.

Don't forget the \$2/vehicle entrance fee.  
Trip difficulty: 2

**Saturday, July 8, 8:00 AM**

**Mill Creek with Michael Drummond**

Meet at the Tag Agency on NW 34th Street just south of US-441 (across from the old ABC Liquors). Mill Creek is not yet open to the public. Trip difficulty: 2

---

...and another summer offering

**Sunday, July 23, 8:30 AM**

**Matanzas Inlet with Bubba Scales**

Meet at Fort Matanzas National Monument near Crescent Beach.

Come explore the wildest inlet on Florida's East Coast for nesting Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers. Bring water, a snack, and sunscreen. Dress for prolonged exposure to full sun, and pack a lunch if you plan to stay all day. Trip difficulty: 3

**Trip Difficulty 1:** Trip within easy access to the vehicle and/or level terrain one mile or less **2:** May involve uneven terrain one to two miles **3:** May involve elevation change, uneven terrain, and/or greater than two miles



### Alachua Audubon Society Website

[www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud](http://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.

## AAS and the BSA

AAS participated in the local Alachua County Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Day. We guided scouts through part of the Bird Study merit badge and the Nature merit badge. These were all highly interested, intelligent, and actively participating young men. Requirements covered in class included such skills as binocular use and care, field guide use, anatomy of a bird, and discussions about endangered species, food chains, and the importance of bird study. In order to complete the merit badges, the scouts must now spend time in the field watching and identifying birds by sight and sound (as well as other types of animals for the Nature group) and making a bird sanctuary in their back yard. It is very likely that those of you attending next year's field trips will run into some of these scouts. We welcome you to take an active role in recruiting and teaching the next wave of young birders! If any of you are interested in being merit badge counselors (it's really not that difficult nor time consuming, and men or women are welcome), please contact Bruce Christensen (373-6598), Rex Rowan (rexrowan@earthlink.net), or Bob Carroll (gatorbob23@yahoo.com). We are also in need of counselors who have knowledge of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish, plants, and insects. You may look at the merit badge requirements at [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com).

## Could You Be A Sponsor?

Acquainting young people with the beauty of the natural world and encouraging inquiring minds to explore is a great way to help conserve and protect natural resources.

You can help by becoming a sponsor of the award-winning Audubon Adventures. Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for grades 3 to 6 that presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds and wildlife, and their habitats. A yearly sponsorship costs \$46 and provides each teacher with a 32 student Classroom Kit and a year membership in Audubon.

Call Emily Schwartz at 372-0754 for a free sample Audubon Adventures newsletter or to become a sponsor.

### MICANOPY ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Medical, Surgical and Dental Services  
Molly Pearson, DVM

Lori Wendland, DVM Joan McKinney, DVM  
306 NE Highway 441, Micanopy, FL 32667

[www.micanopyanimalhospital.com](http://www.micanopyanimalhospital.com) (352) 466-0067

### Alachua Audubon Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees

President ..... Howard Adams 352 373-4270  
Vice president.....Rex Rowan 352 371-9296  
Secretary..... Linda Krause 352 466-0619  
Treasurer.....Barbara Mollison 386 972-5008  
Membership.....Paul Moler 352 495-9419  
Field Trips.....Bubba Scales 352 381-1997  
Programs.....AAS Staff  
Advertisements..... Bruce Christensen 392-4700  
.....ext. 4062  
Education..... Emily Schwartz 352 372-0754

Birding Classes..... Kathy Haines 352 372-8942  
Festivals ..... AAS Staff  
Conservation..... Michael Meisenburg 352 495-1791  
Crane Editor ..... Ingrid Scales 352 367-1065  
Submissions: neznarfi@hotmail.com  
Historian..... Martha King 352 372-4149  
Crane Circulation .....Margaret Green 352 378-3314

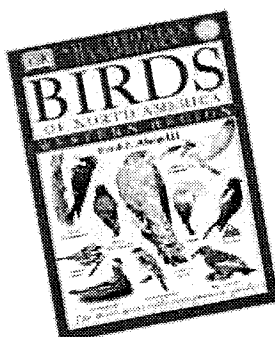
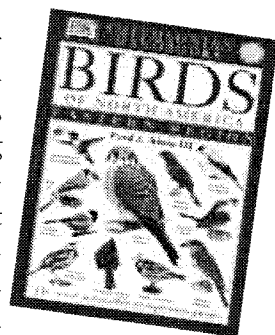
Assisting with Crane circulation: Alice Tyler, Pat Burns,  
Nancy Oakes

*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.*

**Book Review:**  
**Smithsonian Handbooks Birds of North America,**  
**Eastern Region and Western Region**  
**by Fred J. Alsop III DK Publishing**

**Reviewed by Bruce Christensen**

Fred J. Alsop has compiled two attractive volumes on North American avifauna. The introduction boasts, "Until now, no tool for identifying birds has also provided access to information on behavior, nesting, flight patterns, and similar birds in a compact and user-friendly format. Written for the novice as well as the experienced birder, this book showcases in individual page profiles each of the...more than 900 species that are permanent or summer residents, visit regularly, or stray occasionally to the continent." The 100<sup>th</sup> meridian is used to separate species covered between the two volumes (and, of course, this results in significant overlap of species living on both sides of the arbitrary line). These are beautiful books packed with a lot of information and laid out in such a way that they are fun to use. But do you need to have them as part of your library? Well, they make a nice addition, but they are *absolutely not* necessary. It seems as though they try to be both a field guide and a treatise on natural history, and in the end do not succeed well in either case. The figures are mostly photographs (some illustrations of rare birds are included where photos were unavailable), which, in most cases, are very nice but in some cases are mediocre or downright terrible. The worst tend to be of soaring birds that look like blurry silhouettes against the blue sky. But those are just a couple of exceptions. The real problem with the pictures from an identifica-



tion standpoint is that only one main picture is used for each species. In most cases where the female differs from the male, a smaller photograph of the female is included. In cases where a juvenile plumage is illustrated, the image is so small that it is virtually useless. For identification purposes, birders will be much better served referring to their favorite field guide (Sibley, Kaufman, Peterson, National Geographic). As for natural history, this book does provide some interesting information, but it's no textbook. It's more like a book of trivia. For each species there is quick information on song, behavior, breeding, nesting, population and conservation status, flight pattern, range, and habitat, as well as some random facts. So, it is fun to peruse. You may learn what a particular bird eats, where it nests, if it will use a nest box, its conservation status, etc.

In summary, these are fun, attractive volumes to leaf through and read random facts about various birds that may be commonly or uncommonly found in North America. They should, however, only be an addition to your library and cannot take the place of a well-illustrated, comprehensive field guide and a thorough textbook.

**SOLD**



**We're selling houses.**

**HELEN WARREN**  
REALTOR®

**ERA Trend Realty**  
4141 NW 37th Place, Suite A  
Gainesville, FL 32606

(352) 377-6666 Office  
(352) 378-2470 Fax  
(352) 214-7755 Cell  
E-Mail: hwarren@erafl.com  
WebSite: www.erafl.com



WE SERVE YOU




**MLS**

*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.

# *Around The County...*

*By Bubba Scales*

A peak of birding related irony may have occurred this spring when Bill Pranty, chair of the American Birding Association's Checklist Committee, came to town to do a book signing and asked his friends and colleagues to take him to a cemetery. It doesn't seem so ironic, though, when you realize that the cemetery is adjacent to fellow checklist committee member Andy Kratter's house and that it is from a lawn chair in the cemetery yard that Andy beholds a migratory phenomenon of **Common Loons** each spring. Andy's loon tallies of nearly 200 birds on a single morning flying from SE to NW may constitute something unique, or nearly so, in loon migration. Or is it that the Gulf is packed with wintering loons that migrate over much of the state and Andy has simply found the right combination of factors to witness it: a panoramic opening to the sky, a lawn chair, and diligent observation. We don't know yet.


Speaking of diligence, Pat Burns' high tolerance of low aesthetics paid off when she found an **Upland Sandpiper** at the Dollar General

ponds on March 30. She found a second upland there on April 2 and saw at least one of them as late as April 7. Linda Hensley's observation of two **Black-necked Stilts** at the Home Depot Pond on March 30 were the season's first. If the stilts are still there and the water levels do not rise abruptly, then birders should find a nest soon and chicks should be easy to observe. Other shorebirds used the Post Office Pond during migration including a **Pectoral Sandpiper** that Rex Rowan observed there on April 13 and a **Stilt Sandpiper** that Mike Manetz observed there on the 14th. Burns also observed a **White-rumped Sandpiper** at a Turnberry Lake retention pond (along C-241 north of Newberry Rd.) on May 12.

The first flurry of migratory songbird activity may have occurred on April 9 when three **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported from different locations around the county. The last flurry seems to have come and gone in the last week of April. Scott Flamand observed a flock of several hundred **Bobolinks** at Hague Dairy on the 27th. On the 30th, the Audubon field trip to Lake Alice observed 20 or more **American Redstarts** and heard at least four in song from a single location along the swampy lake margin below Hume Field. John Hintermister observed three **Yellow-breasted Chats** on May 8, all in song, on Paynes Prairie near the visitor's center observation tower and along the trail toward Camp's Canal.

Ron Robinson still had a few **American Goldfinches** at his birdfeeders on May 10 and Dotty Robbins reported a very late

*(continued on page 4)*



**SWEETWATER**  
ORGANIC COFFEE COMPANY


THE WORLD'S FINEST  
SHADE GROWN  
ORGANIC & FAIR TRADE SPECIALTY COFFEE  
WE ROAST TO ORDER DAILY FOR THE  
ULTIMATE FLAVOR & FRESHNESS.

AVAILABLE AT:  
WARD'S SUPERMARKET, MOCHA NOW,  
WILD BIRD'S UNLIMITED, DORN'S,  
SWEET DREAMS ICE CREAM, SATCHEL'S PIZZA,  
UPPERCRUST BAKERY, BLUE HIGHWAY PIZZA,  
WILD IRIS BOOKS, EARTH PETS

[www.sweetwaterorganiccoffee.com](http://www.sweetwaterorganiccoffee.com)

ARTISAN ROASTED & FAIRLY TRADED

FAIR TRADE  
USDA  
ORGANIC



**Energy  
Conservation  
Services of North Florida Inc.**

Solar Contracting Since 1977

Solar Pool & Hot Water Systems  
Solar Electric System Design  
Solar Electric Contracting

**Tom Lane**  
Gainesville (352) 377-8866  
Ocala 622-1445 • Fax (352) 338-0056  
[www.ecs-solar.com](http://www.ecs-solar.com)

6120 S.W. 13th Street • Gainesville, Florida 32608 • U.S.A.  
State Solar Contracting License #CVC 056643

*(Around the County continued)*

**White-throated Sparrow** near her home in High Springs on May 2. Dotty's sparrow would have been Alachua County's latest ever by two days except that I have been holding onto a documented report (photograph) of one from the home of Lisa Townsend in Turkey Creek near Alachua. Lisa's sparrow stayed in her yard through the winter, through the spring, and through the summer of 2005 when it, er, "migrated" in the fall.

Thanks to all who submitted reports through May 21.

---

## AAS at the Hipp

The Hippodrome State Theater has invited AAS to participate in the showing of the film, "Kekexili: Mountain Patrol." The film tells the tale of brave local Tibetans who face death and starvation to save the endangered antelope herds from a band of ruthless poachers. The film will show from June 23-29. On Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, AAS will host an open house/Q&A session to discuss local conservation issues relevant to members of our county. On hand will be representatives from Audubon of Florida, Florida Wildlife Care, and Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (along with special, feathered guests). Please come out to show your support and view this excellent film. Showtimes can be found by calling 375-HIPP or visiting

[www.thehipp.org](http://www.thehipp.org)

A trailer of the film may be viewed at

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/mountainparrot/>



**THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL**

**OPENS JUNE 2 ON STAGE ALL SUMMER LONG**

The Hippodrome State Theatre  
375-HIPP / [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org) / 25 SE 2nd Place, Gainesville

## Wild Birds Unlimited®

**Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®**

Birdseed • Feeders • Nesting Boxes • Nature Gifts • Optics

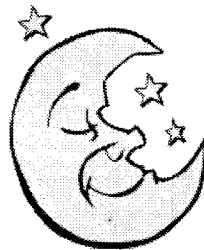
4215 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Blvd Gainesville

352-381-1997

[www.wbu.com/gainesville](http://www.wbu.com/gainesville)

[gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com](mailto:gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com)

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



**Sweet Dreams**  
**HOMEMADE**  
**ICE CREAM**  
of Gainesville

3437 W. University Avenue (next to Goering's Bookstore)

(352) 378-0532

Now Selling at the Downtown Farmer's Market on Wednesdays!

**Interested in Ideas?**  
**Looking for good information?**  
**Finding the Internet disappointing?**

Visit our  
**Magazine Stand**  
'Global in scope, local in color.'

**Goerings**  
**Book Store**

3433 West University Westgate 378-0363  
Open Mon-Sat 10:00 to 9:30 Sun 10:00-5:00



**Providing outdoor and travel needs since 1972**

COLUMBIA - WILDERNESS SYSTEMS - HOBIE - KEEN  
VASQUE - PATAGONIA - THE NORTH FACE - YAKIMA  
THULE - ROYAL ROBBINS - KELTY - CAMELBAK AND MORE!

**Gainesville:**

2331 N.W. 13TH STREET

352/372-0521

888/438-4502

**Ocala:**

406 E SILVER SPRINGS BLVD

352/861-8022

888/454-1991

**[www.brasingtons.com](http://www.brasingtons.com)**

## TRIP TO HAWAII

By Bob Simons

My daughter, Karina, planned a family trip to Hawaii. The seven of us spent the third week of April on the Big Island of Hawaii, and then my wife (Erika), son (Alan), and I spent the last week of April on Kauai, the oldest and northernmost of the main Hawaiian Islands.

It was not a birding trip, but we did look for birds and other wildlife. We did a lot of snorkeling to see the beautiful reefs and their colorful fish. We also did a lot of hiking, giving me a chance to see birds. On the Big Island, which is as big as all the other Hawaiian Islands put together, we saw the small native forest birds 'apapane and Hawaiian 'amakihi on the rim trail in Hawaiian Volcanos National Park. The 'apapane, which is a brilliant scarlet with black wings, is perhaps the only one of the Hawaiian honeycreepers that has developed some resistance to avian malaria, thus fairly common and easy to see. Avian malaria and bird pox have devastated the others to varying degrees. On rocky beaches on the coast we saw wandering tattlers, ruddy turnstones and Pacific golden plovers in breeding plumage. In a National Park near the Kona Airport at Aimakapa Pond, we

saw Hawaiian stilts and Hawaiian coots. On the NW point of the island east of Hawi, I had a good look at one Hawaiian hawk.

Since most of the area of these islands is no longer native habitat, and there are many introduced species, we also saw many exotic birds. Some of the showy ones on the Big Island were Kalij pheasant, yellow-billed cardinal, northern cardinal, lavender waxwing, saffron finch, red-billed leothrix, Java sparrow, and yellow-fronted canary. The most abundant exotics on both islands are Japanese white-eye, common myna, and zebra dove.

On Kauai, instead of yellow-billed cardinals, there were red-crested cardinals. There was also the white-rumped shama, a thrush relative, which sang its beautiful song early each morning.

On both islands, we saw black noddies at their nesting caves. The black noddy on the main Hawaiian Islands is a distinct race that is smaller, has more white on the head, and nests on cliffs and in caves.

On Kauai, we did two long hikes in Koke'e Park, one on the Pihea Trail and one on the Alakai Swamp Trail. We had intended to hike into Alakai Swamp from the Pihea Trail, but it was too long and difficult for us. However, from the Alakai Swamp Trail, we were able to

### Captain Doug's TIDE WATER TOURS

from Cedar Key

For the ultimate birding experience by boat to remote coastal marshes or near shore islands. Charter only.

Call or check our website: 352-543-9523

[www.tidewatertours.com](http://www.tidewatertours.com)

*Dental Arts*

Eric J. Amundson DDS  
Restorative & Cosmetic Dentistry

- ◆ Comprehensive Dental Care
- ◆ Cleanings in a Spa-like Setting
- ◆ The Art of Cosmetic Dentistry
- ◆ Affordable Teeth Whitening
- ◆ Restorative Dentistry Including Implants
- ◆ Preventative Dentistry for Your Family

4040 W. Newberry Rd. Suite 1200 • Gainesville, Florida • 32607  
352-376-3400 [www.dentalarts.us](http://www.dentalarts.us)

### A Wonderful Birding Experience Awaits...

Reserve some time...



### ADVENTURE OUTPOST

CANOE & KAYAK TOURS, SALES, RENTALS

Over 40 North Florida Waterways  
Save this coupon 20% off any tour  
See our website for calander & trip  
descriptions

[www.adventureoutpost.net](http://www.adventureoutpost.net)



easily get into the Alakai Swamp, which is the best remaining habitat in the Hawaiian Islands for the native forest birds. We saw five native forests species there: 'elepaio, Kauai 'amakihi, 'anianiau, 'apapane, and i'iwi. I'iwi (each "i" is pronounced as a long e and the w as a v), with its long, down-curved bill and brilliant red plumage, is the poster bird for the Hawaiian honeycreepers. It used to be a common bird and used to provide feathers for the Hawaiian ceremonial capes, but continues to decline and is now rather hard to find, except at high elevations where mosquitoes are few.

We also visited the Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge on Kilauea Point. There, we saw a few wedge-tailed shearwaters, great frigate birds, and white-tailed tropicbirds and many nenes, Laysan albatross, red-footed boobies, and red-tailed tropicbirds. The shearwater, booby, albatross, and red-tailed tropicbird are nesting there at this time of year. The white-tailed tropicbird, which nests on cliffs in the interior mountains, was also seen down from the Pihea Trail in a canyon on the Napali Coast and in Waimea Canyon.

We took a zodiac boat trip up the Napali Coast and saw two monk seals, many green sea turtles, large pods of spinner and bottle-nosed dolphins, and a few black noddies.

Finally, on the last day, we visited Hanapepe Salt Ponds on the south coast and saw one Hawaiian duck, some Hawaiian stilts, and Hawaiian coots.

One additional bird should be mentioned. The red junglefowl is common in Koke'e Park. Is it just a chicken? Well, the books on Hawaiian birds say no, it is different. Who am I to argue? It's on my list.

## Harmony Gardens

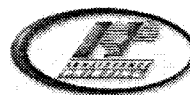
Nursery and Garden Center  
@ GreenerySquare

5416 NW 8th Ave Gainesville, FL (352) 378-3808

Providing for living exterior environments  
Specializing in Native Plants  
Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden Specialists

## RENAISSANCE PRINTING

serving your printing needs since 1972



- DocuTech Digital Copies • Express Fax • Digital Color Copies
- Custom Finishing • Desktop Publishing • Offset Printing
- Fast Professional Service • Free Pick-up & Delivery

4130 N.W. 16th Blvd.  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
(352) 372-2233 • FAX 372-3435



REX H. JOHNSON

Owner

800-228-6058 • 352-336-5213

Fax: 561-258-7796

amsstar@bellsouth.net  
americanstarwater.com

## AMERICAN STAR WATER TREATMENT

Your favorite Independent Water Treatment Specialists

GAINESVILLE • OCALA • STARKE

We Service, Sell & Rent All National Brands  
Try Our Total Satisfaction Guarantee  
Licensed - Bonded - Insured



Your Green Dealer

3333 N Main Street Gainesville  
(352) 376-5371  
(877) 751-3673 TOLL FREE  
www.gainesvilleford.com



2006 Ford Escape Hybrid  
36 CITY MPG/ 31 HIGHWAY MPG



Eat Well, Live Well...

Check us out. A short ride down Highway 441, just south of the yellow flashing light, in Micanopy. For some of the finest food you'll find anywhere.

"The calzones will make all of your wildest dreams come true!"  
-REX ROWAN

- Hand-crafted brick-oven pizza & calzones
- Gorgeous salads
- Gourmet sandwiches
- Home-made desserts
- A fine selection of beers, wines & sodas

Open Tue-Sat 11:30-9:00,  
Sun 12-8:00 / (352) 466-0062



Hours: 8-8 Mon.-Sat.  
9-7 Sunday

**5% off your order  
with this coupon**

515 N.W. 23rd Ave.  
Gainesville, FL 32609-8527  
FAX (352) 372-1199  
(352) 372-1741

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

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Gainesville Florida 32601  
Permit No. 18

*The Crane*  
June/July 2006

## Join Audubon!

To join Audubon on 3 levels (National, Florida, and Alachua), fill in application and mail to:

Paul Moler  
7818 Highway 346  
Archer, Florida 32618

If you have any questions, contact Paul at 495-9419 or [pmoler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pmoler@worldnet.att.net)

### Chapter E-18 New Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Not for  
Renewals**

Please check level of membership:

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

Please enclose your check payable to National Audubon Society