



The Crane

Volume 49 Number 6 June-July 2008

Don't miss the AAS Annual Pot Luck

AAS Annual Pot Luck and Election Wednesday, June 11, 6:30pm

Spring has arrived and it is time to **elect** the officers and members to your **Board of Directors for 2008-2009**. Our chapter is a volunteer based organization with the common structure of four officers and up to fifteen directors. Our directors serve a three year term with five members up for consideration each year. We have some new members on the slate for the BOD to welcome and many returning members who continue to contribute their time, energy and ideas for the leadership of your Alachua Audubon.

AAS Slate of officers for 2008

President- Mike Meisenburg
Vice President- Bob Carroll
Secretary- Susan Sommerville
Treasurer- Dotty Robbins

Slate for Members to the Board of Directors for a three year term to expire in 2011 are: **Michael Drummond, Kathy Haines, Geoff Parks, Bob Simons** and newcomers **Ivor Kincaid**. Another newcomer is **Stephen Hofstetter** up for a slot with a 2010 expiration. Returning members of the BOD are **Peter Ames, Adam Kent, Phil Laipis, Cecelia Lockwood, Craig Parenteau, Stacy Porvasnik, Rex Rowan, Emily Schwartz, and Alice Tyler**.

We have two retiring members of the board, **Marcy Jones** and **Leslie Straub**, who have contributed in

many ways with our presence in the community. They will both remain active with business and events throughout the year.

Come to the Party!

Many of you participate in the field trips, attend the programs, or send info on the birds you see. Maybe you participate with the Fall Migratory Bird Count or the Christmas Bird Count; stop by our booth at special events; or take a birding class. Whatever your pleasure with regards to the birds, **please bring friends, family, and some food** and join us for our annual end of the year pot luck and election of officers and directors.

We will be gathering at the home of Bubba, Ingrid, Key and Astrid Scales, **Wednesday, June 11, 6:30pm**. Come early as we will start the evening with a walk through the trails of Audubon Park, the Audubon Sanctuary, a little known treasure and conservation area located in Colclough Hills. Please bring a dish to pass. We also encourage you to "be green" and bring your own plates and flatware.

Directions:

From Downtown—Head south on Main St. Turn left at light at SW 16th Ave. Turn right at light at Williston Rd. Turn at first right (bottom of hill). You will go up a short hill, turn right, stay right at fork. Scales' house is second driveway on left after fork. House is gray with large live oak in yard.

3002 SW 1st Way - Call if you have trouble 367-1065

If you would like to get more involved in AAS, come to the pot luck and let's walk and talk!

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 Officers & Chairpersons of Standing Committees

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AAS Website www.flmnh.ufl.edu/aud

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.

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. *The Crane* is printed on recycled paper.

**Deadline for
 Aug-Sept Crane:
 July 15th**



Spring migration was pretty typical this year. Any day from early April to early May could produce a few migrants, but given our location in the north-central portion of the state, usually a few is all you can expect. Most migrants leaving the West Indies tend to work their way up the coast, and those leaving the Yucatan, unless hampered by unfavorable winds, will pass right over us. Nonetheless, an intrepid birder can usually scrape up something interesting. They don't get much more intrepid than Pat Burns, who found our first migrant **Louisiana Waterthrush** back in March, and dug up our first **Worm-eating Warbler** April 3 at Loblolly Nature Center. April 12 brought the first reports of **Northern Waterthrushes**, with one at San Felasco Hammock (found by Pat) and another at Split Rock. Tom Hoctor came up with our first **Cape May Warbler** of the season April 15 at Palm Point. As far as I know, the only **Yellow Warbler** reported in the county was one I found April 20 at the Dairy. Rex Rowan had our first **Blackpoll Warbler** April 22 in the "Redstart tree" at the tip of Palm Point. Things finally broke loose at the end of the month when a weak cold front came through, making April 30 a good day to be out. At San Felasco, Pat Burns netted (not literally) "many" **American Redstarts** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers**, plus two Cape May and three Blackpoll Warblers. The same morning at Palm Point I found five Blackpolls, four Redstarts, a Cape May and a Northern Waterthrush. For the next few days many people reported similar collections of warblers, and Anna Casella found in her yard the seasons only reported **Gray-cheeked Thrush**.

Aside from an ephemeral flock of fifty reported from the Dairy, **Bob-o-links** were hard to find until the first week of May, when several people began reporting much larger numbers along La Chua trail. Also of note on Payne's Prairie basin was a **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** first noticed by Rex Rowan while scanning from the 441 platform April 6 and seen a couple of times since then. While still considered rare in the county, they seem to be showing up here more regularly.

Chapman's Pond was looking good in mid-April as Phil Laipis reported **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, plus several **Stilt Sandpipers**, but water levels came up and doused hopes. Phil Also reported **Black-necked Stilts** at Lake Alice. The lagoon at Hague Dairy was at a perfect level and attracted a fair collection of shorebirds. At its peak the first week of May there were a few dozen **Least** and up to a half-dozen **Semi-palmated Sandpipers**, a couple of locally-rare **Semi-palmated Plovers**, plus the usual collection of **Spotted** and **Solitary Sandpipers** and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** or two.

Gainesville is pretty much the southern limit for breeding **Broad-winged Hawks**, and there are probably no more than a few pair that nest here annually. This year one of those pair may be at Split Rock Park, as on three consecutive weekends in April I found Broad-wings hanging around the parking area along SW 20th Avenue, so keep an eye out if you drive that road just west of the Interstate. Another bird near the southern limit of its range is **Yellow-breasted Chat**. We sometimes get them on the basin at Bolen Bluff but that is never a sure thing, so it was welcome news that Michael Drummond, leading an Alachua Audubon field trip, discovered one singing at Barr Hammock on May 3.

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through May 11, 2008.

AAS Welcomes A New Neighbor

A new Audubon Society has formed on our flank, the Santa Fe Audubon Society (SFAS). Joyce King, a former president of St. Petersburg Audubon Society, has returned to her north-central Florida roots and established the new chapter in Melrose. Its proximity to Gainesville means that AAS will relinquish four area zip codes: 32631, 32640, 32666, and 32694. All new memberships under the zips will become SFAS members. We believe members currently residing within these zip codes may be transferred to SFAS.

If any existing AAS members in the SFAS area wish to remain in AAS, please contact Paul Moler at paulmoler@bellsouth.net.

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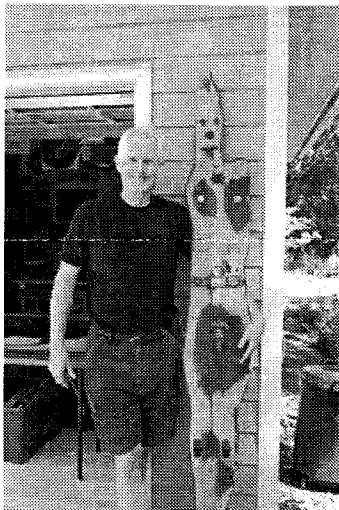
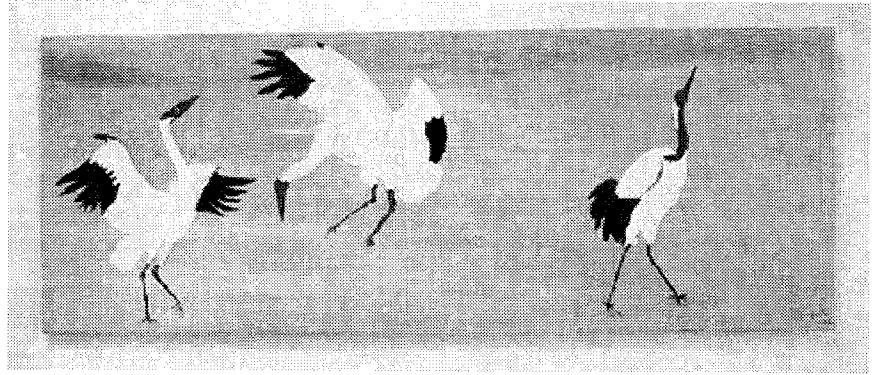


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JOINED AT THE HIP

Phil Robinson, a local artist from Earlton and member of the Melrose Artisan's Guild, will be exhibiting his artwork throughout the month of June at the Hippodrome State Theater. Mr. Robinson describes his work as "primitive art on found objects" with a self taught style that is whimsical, colorful, and creative. He makes use of old house paint, branches, drift wood, old doors, hinges, and scrapes that most of us would put in the trash. As he looks at his collection of things he is able to create his art. As you look at his art



you may find yourself thinking outside the box but surely you will leave grinning from the experience of viewing his creation. You may view Phil's work online at <http://mbagallery.smugmug.com> and look for Phil Robinson in the artists' directory.

Mr. Robinson has chosen **Alachua Audubon** to receive all proceeds from the sale of his work during this event. Alachua Audubon was the recipient

of proceeds sold in May at Satchel's Pizza. While his artwork will be on display throughout the month, two key dates to remember are the Opening Night on Fri-

day, June 6th and the monthly Art Walk on June 27th. Both events start at 6:30pm. Join us for the events and if you find some art that calls your name, answer with a purchase knowing you are benefiting Alachua Audubon.

Don't Miss It!

- ♦ Opening Night—Friday, June 6th, 6:30pm
- ♦ Art Walk—Friday, June 27th, 6:30pm

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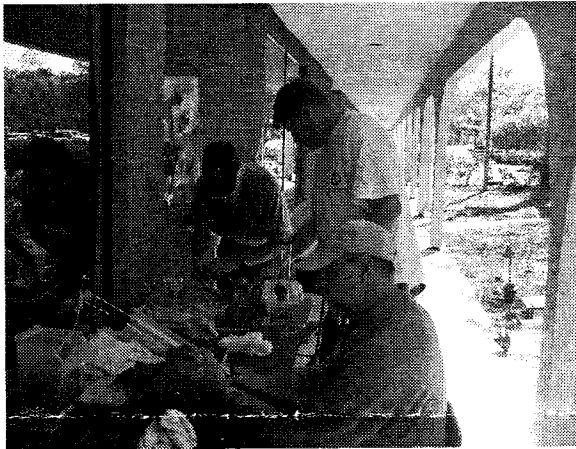
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WBU Bird Feeder Cleaning Experience

Those who participated with Wild Birds Unlimited bird feeder cleaning event in April got a good deal with the cleaning. Volunteers were trained in assembly and disassembly line work. Feeders were disassembled, cleaned, dried, and reassembled. If it was from the WBU collection we had new pieces to replace the worn and broken parts. Those who dropped off their feeders could run errands and return later to pick up the cleaned feeder.




It is always amazing to find the time in 'work' being fun. Maybe I am just easily entertained but the process of cleaning the feeders was pretty easy and simple once we had the tools and cleaning baths set up. WBU staff, John and Josh, were on hand for instruction and assistance. Audubon volunteers included Mike Meisenburg, Bob Carroll, Susan Sommerville, Rex and Sarah Rowan, Stacy Hoffman, Sue Legg, Buz Bireline and myself. Bubba and Ingrid Scales kept us well fed and hydrated. **By the end of the day we had cleaned more than 60 feeders and raised \$256.00 for AAS.**



As a first time feeder cleaner, I was impressed with a number of things. For fun, we were treated to the activity of a Northern Mockingbird as she kept busy finding food for her newly hatched babes nested in the bushes nearby. She got used to our presence pretty quickly, visited the WBU feeder often, and foraged in the lawn and shrubs. In the afternoon we were treated to the sounds of Cedar Waxwings and Great-crested Flycatchers singing and calling overhead.

I returned home and continued on the disassemble track. Outside, I took apart my old fashioned watering can and cleared the spout of leaves and twigs. Inside I disassembled the stove, cleaning the drip pans, rings and tray. By the end of the day, I was tucked out when I tucked in. Yes, it was a good day.

Helen Warren



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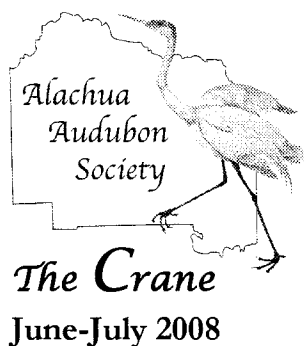
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Don't miss these AAS Events!

AAS Annual Pot Luck and Election
Wednesday, June 11, 6:30pm

Art Show to benefit AAS

Phil Robinson's artwork showing at the
Hippodrome State Theater
during the month of June

- ♦ Opening Night—Friday, June 6th, 6:30pm
- ♦ Art Walk—Friday, June 27th, 6:30pm

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

Questions? Contact Paul 495-9419 or
pmoler@worldnet.att.net

Chapter E-18 New Membership Application **Not for renewals!**

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☐ One Year \$20.00 ☐ Two Years \$30.00

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