



The Crane

Volume 50 Number 5 April-May 2009

April and May AAS field trips

Saturday, April 4, 7:30 am **Ocala National Forest**

Meet Bob Simons at Sweetbay/UF Bookstore II at 2002 SW 34th St. General ecology interest. Avian highlights include Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrow, and the Florida Scrub-Jay. Pack water, a snack, and dress for exposure. Trip diff: 3

Saturday, April 18, 8am **Fort DeSoto County Park**

One of Florida's best known migrant traps. Meet Howard Adams in the parking lot of Ft. Desoto County Park Visitor Center. Ft. Desoto trips have produced over 20 species of warbler. Trip diff: 2

Sunday, April 19, 8 am **River Rise State Park**

Call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] to make a reservation and for trip details. Trip leaders Ivor Kincaide and Bubba Scales lead this trip via special access to the Black Lake Loop at River Rise State Park on the Santa Fe River. **\$4/vehicle entry fee.** Trip difficulty: 3

Saturday, April 25, 8 am **San Felasco Hammock-Millhopper**

Meet Steve Hofstetter at San Felasco trailhead on Millhopper Road. Don't forget the **\$2/vehicle access fee.** Meandering streams, sinkholes, ridges, and slopes set the stage for a very diverse bird habitat during fall migration's peak. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, April 26, 6:30 am **Cedar Key**

Meet Rex Rowan in the Target parking lot. Cedar Key is a quintessential Florida birding destination where birders can often view flocks of shorebirds over one shoulder and flocks of songbirds over the other. Participants may want to stay in Cedar Key for lunch. Difficulty: 2

Saturday, May 2, 8 am **Palm Point**

Meet Mike Manetz at Powers Park. Migratory birding at a local classic migrant trap. The edge of the cypress swamp can be an excellent place to observe migrant activity. Difficulty: 2

Sunday, May 3, 8 am **Bolen Bluff**

Meet Adam Kent at the Bolen Bluff trailhead (east side of 441 on the south rim of the prairie). Bolen Bluff is one of Gainesville's perennial favorite birding locations, especially during the peak of songbird migration. Difficulty: 2

Saturday, May 9, 8 am **Watermelon Pond—CLEP**

This year Alachua Audubon is sponsoring its second annual series of field trips that brings attention to local land conservation efforts. These trips highlight properties that protect plant and animal life. Each trip is

continued on page 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 Officers &
Chairpersons of
Standing Committees**

President	Michael Meisenburg 495-1791
Vice President	Bob Carroll 372-6698
Secretary	Susan Sommerville 378-2808
Treasurer	Dotty Robbins 386 454-8087
Membership	Paul Moler 495-9419
Field Trips	Bubba Scales 381-1997
Education	Emily Schwartz 372-0754
Birding Classes	Kathy Haines 372-8942
Festivals	Helen Warren 214-7755
Conservation	Michael Meisenburg 495-1791
Crane Editor	Ingrid Scales
.....Submissions:	neznarfi@hotmail.com
Advertising	Cecelia Lockwood 281-7659
Historian	Martha King 372-4149
Website	Rex Rowan 371-9296
Yearbook	Bob Carroll 372-6698
Crane Circulation	Margaret Green 378-3314
Assisting with Crane circulation:	Alice Tyler, Pat Burns, Nancy Oakes
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
Jun-July Crane:
May 15th**

Around The County...

By Mike Manetz

Late winter is usually a little dull for birders. By February, many are hunkered down waiting for spring migration. Others cast an eye on their frost-battered butterfly and hummingbird gardens with an eye for the coming season's new growth.

Still others continue to beat the bushes, keeping track of wintering rarities, and searching for early incoming neotropical migrants. For instance, Lloyd Davis regularly checks on our now famous **Harris's Sparrow** at La Chua trail, and will likely provide us with a late wintering date for that species. June Hinson, in Archer, had the county's first report of incoming **Purple Martins** on the 25th of January. Felicia Lee gave us a new late record for **Snow Geese** by noting sixteen of them February 21 as she was birding at the Beef Teaching Unit on Williston Road. Two of these, photographed by Cecelia Lockwood and much analyzed by local experts, may well have been **Ross's Geese**. Felicia also reported a new early record **Black-necked Stilt** February 22 at La Chua trail. Matt Hafner noted the continued presence of **White-faced Ibis** February 21 at La Chua. **Winter Wrens** and **Rusty Blackbirds** are both pretty rare here in winter. Caleb Gordon found one of the former and eight of the latter at Loblolly the 7th and 8th of February. Bob Simons had a new early record for incoming **Louisiana Waterthrush** February 11 at River Rise State Park. The area's first **Swallow-tailed Kites** were spotted by Ron Goates February 16 at San Felasco Hammock. Ron Robinson had our first incoming **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** in his yard on February 28, and our earliest reports of **Northern Parulas** were provided March 3 by both Becky Enneis near Alachua and Grace Kiltie at Payne's Prairie.

We may well have had a brief visit February 22 from a species never recorded here before. Andy Kratter, while birding Newnans Lake, found an unusually large flock of gulls. Scanning carefully he noticed an individual he strongly suspected of being a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. The following day a small flotilla of our finest birders combed the north end of the lake and found the flock had largely dissipated with no sign of the Lesser Black backed. Another tantalizing report came from Pam Snyder, who, on February 16 at La Chua trail, noticed a couple of shorebirds that are extremely rare inland: **Willet** and **Ruddy Turnstone**. Willets have occurred here occasionally but usually only in spring or fall. The Turnstone would be only

the second ever reported here.

By the time you receive this issue of the Crane, spring migration should be moving into high gear, and will peak around the last week of April and first week of May. During that period you should be able to find a few American Redstarts, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue and Cape May Warblers at just about any of our top birding sites. Check your feeders for Indigo Bunting and the much less common Painted Bunting. Any large flock of migrating swallows can conceal a few Bank or Cliff Swallows. Bobolinks can show up in big numbers at Lake Alice and the Hague Dairy. We haven't had a good fallout in a few years. Maybe this spring will be the one.

Thanks to those who shared their sightings through March 12, 2009

co-led by a representative from the land management organization or agency and AAS representative and each will focus on that site's unique flora, fauna, and history. These field trips are designed to be educational experiences, so the emphasis will be on much more than birding. Marshy Watermelon Pond and its surrounding uplands are part of a complex of conservation lands just south of Newberry. Meet Michael Drummond in the Target parking lot and drive to Watermelon Pond for a special tour of one of the county's best places to observe Sherman's Fox Squirrels. If water levels allow, you may have the option of sloggging a short distance across the marshy part of the pond to an island. Difficulty: 3

**Saturday, May 9, 6:30 pm—SPECIAL EVENT
Frog Slog—Osceola National Forest**

Registration required. Call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] to save your spot. Former State Herpetologist Paul Moler leads this special event field trip into the Osceola National Forest for a flashlight-assisted nighttime adventure. Learn about the status, distribution, and general ecology of many of Florida's frogs and toads while canvassing select locations in the forest where they are typically heard. Difficulty: 3

**Saturday, May 16, 8 am—SPECIAL EVENT
Butterflies with Kathy Malone**

North American Butterfly Association chapter president Kathy Malone and AAS president Mike Meisenberg co-lead this early-season butterfly outing to Kathy Malone's own butterfly garden. There are few places as

good for comfort and close observation of so many species of butterfly. Meet at the High Springs Winn-Dixie. Difficulty: 1

**Saturday, May 23, 8 am—SPECIAL EVENT
Wildflowers with Dana Griffin**

Trip details to be announced. Call Wild Birds Unlimited [352-381-1997] for details and to find out where to meet. Dr. Griffin likes the freedom to choose the best location at the last minute depending on what is blooming and where. In any case, Dr. Griffin's knowledge of botany and style in the field are legendary. Difficulty: 2

Chick -a- Dee- Dee- Dee

*"Your classy formal attire
is a trait we truly admire." - JM*

Idling in thickets,
a chickadee,
readily heard,
tricky to see.
.. *chick-a-dee-dee-dee.*

The subtle song,
a soft refrain,
in courting,
is less restrained.
.. *fee-bee ..fee-bee.*

Trim white shirt,
black cap and tie,
mark this fidget
to identify.

Gentle manners
are easily
their hallmark
of geniality.

Prey to hawks
and northern shrikes,
super quickness
saves these tykes.

Listen closely,
observe. ..to see
this vivid bird,
the chickadee
.. *dee-dee!*

James Minick

BIRDING NEW ZEALAND

Parrots on ice. Penguins in the woods. Albatrosses at your feet. Reading weird stuff like this about birding in New Zealand persuaded us we had to go and see for ourselves. Were the Kiwis putting us on? Well, as we discovered, they were not!

Auckland lies a manageable 23 hours from Jacksonville by commercial jet, and we had hardly hit the road in New Zealand when we spotted our first bird, a masked lapwing (known locally as a spur-winged plover). Several of these garishly feathered birds were attending a herd of dairy cows in a roadside pasture, picking up insects after the manner of cattle egrets. As we traveled on we came across the native New Zealand pigeon, the males performing aerial displays prior to mating. Known also as wood pigeons, these birds are the size of small pheasants and are an important disperser of tree seeds. In a patch of New Zealand bush (make that undeveloped native forest), we first heard and then caught sight of tuis and bellbirds. The calls of these birds were loud and distinctive, a trait that we came to associate with practically all members of the Honeyeaters, an endemic family of Australasian birds. Honeyeaters, equipped with a brush-tipped tongue, are perhaps the most diverse family in the region, and like our own flycatchers, they can be just as difficult to identify in the field.

But even more unusual birding lay ahead of us. While climbing around on the Franz Josef Glacier, we came across keas, those cheeky parrots who like to frolic on the ice and have developed an annoying trait of opening up any backpacks left unguarded or picking apart automobiles in the parking lot. Keas do so much damage to windshield wipers and rubber trim around windows that rental car companies in New Zealand now include parrot damage under their category of normal wear and tear, i.e., the renter doesn't have to pay for the damage. Further down the South Island, we lodged in a wilderness area that backed up to the Tasman Sea and where we came across penguins on a forest hiking trail. These are the Fiordland Crested Penguins that raise their chicks under tree roots and dense shrubs as much as a quarter of a mile back into coastal forests. One parent remains with the chick while the second forages at sea. With a full belly, the absent parent returns to feed the offspring and trade places with the other adult. Hearing the strange nasal honking of penguins in a forest will have to go down

as one of our more mind boggling experiences with birds.

And as we were just about to depart this incredible land of New Zealand, we set sail for one day of pelagic birding out of Kaikoura. Somewhat like Monterey Bay, the continental shelf narrows significantly off Kaikoura, placing deep waters within easy reach of birding parties. What birders come to see are albatrosses, that plus a potpourri of other pelagics. But the amazing difference here is that instead of straining to see a bird off in the foggy distance, the birds congregate around the stern of the boat! A dozen or more wandering albatrosses come right in to the stern hoping for a hand-out. You could literally reach out and touch one, although your skipper will strongly advise against it. The bill on an albatross is capable of doing serious damage. On our day at sea we were treated to the sight of three species of albatrosses, giant petrels, fairy prions, 3 species of shearwaters and a black-backed gull that kept trying to horn in on whatever victuals were at hand.

If you have in mind a birding trip to New Zealand, we can recommend the services of Karen Baird of Kiwi Wildlife Tours. Contact her at either kiwi-wildlife.co.nz or info@kiwi-wildlife.co.nz.

Dana & Nancy Griffin

2009 Spring Native Plant Sale

Paynes Prairie Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society will hold its Fall Native Plant Sale **April 11, (8:30am-noon)** 2009 at Morningside Nature Center, 3540 E. University Ave, Gainesville, FL. The sale will offer native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers that are suited to the north-central area of Florida. There are also vendors selling books, wildflower seed, and many educational booths. Stop by the FNPS information booth to say hello to fellow members and get a raffle ticket to win a large group of native plants. The popular park-a-plant system makes it easy to shop, pay and pick up plants. **Friday evening, April 10 from 4:30pm-6:30pm is a preview sale for FNPS members only** (you can join at the sale!) and the sale is open to the public Saturday, April 11 from 8:30am-12:30pm. For questions call Morningside Nature Center at 352-334-2170 or visit www.natureoperations.org.

Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship

In September 2008, I was the recipient of an Audubon/ Toyota *TogetherGreen* Conservation Leadership Fellowship. I am excited to have the opportunity to network with 39 fellows from across the nation. This conservation initiative by the National Audubon Society with support from Toyota provides fellows with a \$10,000 stipend for our project and specialized training in conservation planning and execution. The purpose of our projects is to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contribute to greater environmental health.

I am focusing my efforts on working with community members in predominantly low income minority Gainesville neighborhoods. The goal is to work with existing community groups to better understand their needs relating to reducing household waste. Elements of the project include presentations on compost methods, recycling tips, and how to buy S.M.A.R.T (Save Money And Reduce Trash). Since youth are the future of our community, I will also be working to empower high school students to teach elementary students about waste reduction. It is my hope that at the end of the fellowship this December residents will have a better understanding of ways to reduce waste and understand how waste accumulation impacts our environment. In addition, I hope to have an improved understanding of the needs of these communities.

Involved in conservation efforts for a decade, I am currently the Public Education Coordinator for Alachua County's Office of Waste Alternatives, where I work with our Waste Alternative Specialists to help Alachua County citizens embrace zero waste.

Additional information about the *TogetherGreen* program can be found at www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows. Jennifer Seitz can be reached by email at jseitz@alachuacounty.us.

Talk on Conservation and Environmental History in Florida

Sunday, April 19, 2009 2:30 to 4 p.m.

The Art of Painting Florida's History – an Afternoon with Jackson Walker

Jackson Walker—Artist-in-Residence, Museum of Florida Art, DeLand

Held at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Call James Cusick at 273-2778 for additional information.

Community Calendar

- ◆ **Apr 2-4** Wakulla Wildlife Festival, Wakulla
- ◆ **Apr 4** Sierra Club /Ardisia/ pull, San Felasco Hammock, 9 a.m.
- ◆ **Apr 10-11** Native Plant Sale, Morningside Nature Center
- ◆ **Apr 17-18** Birding & Wildlife Festival, Brooksville
- ◆ **Apr 18** Earth Day at FLMNH
- ◆ **Apr 21** Native Plant Society meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Apr 22-26** Birding & Fotofest, St. Augustine
- ◆ **Apr 25** Farm and Forest Festival, Morningside Nature Center
- ◆ **April 25** North American Butterfly Association field trip
- ◆ **May 2** Sierra Club /Ardisia/ pull, San Felasco Hammock
- ◆ **May 19** Native Plant Society meeting, 7 p.m.

Every Saturday and Sunday there's a live butterfly release at the museum's Butterfly Rainforest:
http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/default.asp?cal_type=Full_Calendar&date=4/21/2009#grid

Additional details may be found at the web sites of the organizations mentioned:

Birding & Fotofest:: www.getaway4florida.com/bird_fest

Birding and Wildlife Festival: myfwc.com/docs/RecreationSites/Chinsegut_2009BirdWildlifeFlyer.pdf

Earth Day: www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/display_event.asp?CallID=1623

Farm and Forest Festival:
www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/CityDepartmentsNZ/NatureOperationsDivision/tabid/83/Default.aspx

Florida Native Plant Society, Paynes Prairie Chapter:
www.fnps.org/pages/chapters/chapterpg.php?keyword=PaynesPrairie

North American Butterfly Association
www.naba.org/chapters/nabancf/Events.htm

Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. Johns Chapter:
florida.sierraclub.org/ssj/
Sierra Club Ardisia pull: Contact Coordinator Emily Basile at Emily.Basile@dep.state.fl.us

Wakulla Wildlife Festival: www.wakullawildlifefestival.org

Annual Potluck Dinner and Election of Officers and Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30pm

Please join us for our annual end of the year potluck and election of officers and board of directors. Spring has arrived and it is time to elect the officers and members to your Board of Directors for 2009-2010. This chapter is a volunteer based organization with the common structure of four officers and fifteen directors. Your 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 consider and many returning members who continue to contribute their time, energy and ideas for the leadership of your Alachua Audubon.

Many of you participate in the field trips, attend the programs, or send info on the birds you see throughout the year. 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 join us for our spring social gathering.

Bring some food to share for the potluck at the Scales' home, Wednesday, April 22, 6:30pm. Drinks will be provided. By chance, we are having our potluck on Earth Day. We have many choices that impact our footprint on the planet. Think about the ways we can make our potluck have a smaller footprint. Bring your dish in a reusable container. Bring your own plate, silverware and napkin. Let's try to use as little disposable materials as possible!

Directions to the Scales'

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.

Alachua Audubon Society Election Information

The AAS Slate of **Officers** for 2009-2010

- ♦ Helen Warren for President
- ♦ Scott Flamand for Vice President
- ♦ Anne Casella for Secretary
- ♦ Dotty Robbins for Treasurer

The AAS Slate for Members to the **Board of Directors** for a three year term expiring 2012: Adam Kent, Stacy Porvasnik, Emily Schwartz and newcomers Joni Ellis, Mike Manetz, and Caleb Gordon. Returning members to the BOD are Michael Drummond, Kathy Haines, Stephen Hofstetter, Ivor Kincaid, Phil Laipis, Cecelia Lockwood, Geoff Parks, Rex Rowan and Bob Simons.

Some members who have been active board members for many years and are taking a break but still staying involved as able. We want to thank the following for their contributions in keeping this chapter active: Peter Ames, Bob Carroll, Michael Meisenburg, Craig Parenteau, Susan Sommerville, and Alice Tyler.

**Thanks to all the
businesses that
support AAS!**



**Providing outdoor
and travel needs
since 1972**

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

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



Kestrel Ecological Services, LLC

- Invasive/exotic plant surveys & control
- Native plant restoration
- Tree surveys & hazard tree evaluation
- Biological inventories
- Residential and Commercial

Erick D. Smith

urbanforester@gmail.com

(352) 380-0648

Certified Arborist FL 5376A

Michael Meisenburg

e@mike@ufl.edu

(352) 339-0701

We are State Licensed Commercial Herbicide Applicators with
Natural Areas Weed Management/Aquatic Weed Control Certifications



HELEN WARREN
REALTOR®

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

(352) 374-4664 Office
(352) 378-2473 Fax
(352) 374-4664 Cell
E-Mail: helen@eratrnd.com
Website: www.eratrnd.com



Wild Birds Unlimited®

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®

Birdseed • Feeders • Nesting Boxes • Nature Gifts • Optics

4215 NW 16th Blvd Gainesville
352-381-1997

gainesville.wbu.com
gainesvillewbu@hotmail.com

Mon-Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5



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

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

THE HIPPODROME THEATRE

SHIPWRECKED!

A DOG, A GIANT OCTOPUS, A PICKPOCKET, A CRUSTY OLD SEA CAPTAIN
AND A LIBRARIAN ARE JUST A FEW OF THE CHARACTERS IN THIS SAGA
INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNLIKELY HERO WHO
SPELLBOUND VICTORIAN ENGLAND – AND THE WORLD – WITH HIS
INCREDIBLE TALE. A MAGICAL ESCAPE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY.
ON STAGE APRIL 15-MAY 10 ± 8 SHOWS A WEEK

TICKETS AT 375-4477 & THEHIPPO.ORG
25 SE 2ND PLACE, DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE

UNION STREET Farmers' Market

Open year round
Wednesdays 4-7pm
at the Downtown Plaza

Weekly website updates
www.unionstreetfarmersmkt.com



Captain Doug's TIDE WATER TOURS

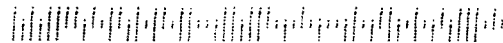
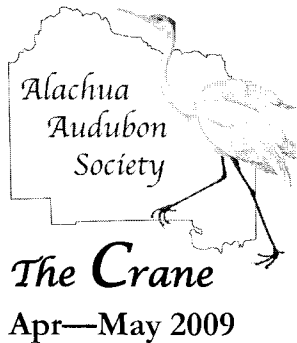
from Cedar Key

**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
tidewatertours.com**

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

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



Don't miss it!
Annual Potluck
Dinner &
AAS Election

Wednesday
April 22, 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
paulmoler@bellsouth.net

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

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Please check level of membership:

☐ Basic \$35.00 ☐ Senior \$15.00 ☐ Student \$15.00

Introductory Membership:

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

Make check payable to National Audubon Society