



The Crane

Volume 64 Number 1 September – October 2022

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 4, 2022, 8:00 am

Powers Park and Palm Point, 5910 SE Hawthorne Rd., Gainesville

Meet trip leader José-Miguel Ponciano at Powers Park to look for migrant warblers, tanagers, and thrushes in the trees along the boat channel and to scan the lake from the fishing pier. Then we'll travel to nearby Palm Point Park (7401 Lake Shore Dr), a local magnet for migrants, to search for more migrating birds in the live oaks and cypress trees. Difficulty: 1.

Saturday, September 10, 2022, 8:00 am

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park - Camps Canal/Cones Dike Trail

Meet trip leader Scott Robinson at the Camps Canal trailhead on CR 234 near Micanopy. We will walk along the canal and then proceed onto Cones Dike for about two more miles. This trail extends along the edge of the marsh on the east side of Paynes Prairie. It is generally wide and flat. We'll be looking primarily for migrants and other newly arrived winter birds. From Gainesville on 441, turn left on CR 234 at the blinking light in Micanopy. After five miles, park off road near the bridge. Difficulty: 3.

Sunday, September 18, 2022, 8:00 am

Biven's Rim Forest Conservation Area

This little gem is nearby and often quite birdy. We will meet leader Roxy Ohanyan at the trailhead to explore along the northern shoreline of Biven's Arm. Come explore this 114-acre park with AAS and find some of the 139 birds reported here in the past. There is a small

floodplain marsh, bottomland hardwoods, and mesic mixed hardwood forest habitat. The trail may be muddy or wet and does have some uneven ground and can be narrow in places. Weekend parking should be available in the UF Department of Animal Science lot. The trailhead main entrance is at the intersection of Shealy Drive (on the west side of the UF Vet School) and Richie Road. Difficulty: 2.

Sunday, September 25, 2022, 8:00 am

Turkey Creek Preserve, 6300 NW 93rd Ave, Gainesville

Officially opened in 2021, this 376-acre preserve with 5 miles of trails gives us a chance to see many ecosystems. These include basin swamp, depression marsh, bottomland forest, hydric hammock, upland hardwood forest, black water streams and sinkholes. We will take a casual 2-3-mile walk guided by Adam and Gina Kent. Trails are well-marked, mostly wide and relatively flat. Meet at the main trailhead parking lot. Difficulty: 2.

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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.

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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.

Submissions to *The Crane* are welcomed. Deadline for the Nov – Dec issue: October 15th

Content of *The Crane* fulfills the stated objectives and goals of the Alachua Audubon Society. Annual subscription to *The Crane* is included in National Audubon and/or Alachua Audubon membership. Please see the back page for more information. Additional advertisers are welcome. Please contact the editor for more information at contact@AlachuaAudubon.org

Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9:00 am

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Reserve

505 Guana River Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Peregrine Falcons migrate down Florida's Atlantic Coast in fall, usually peaking in early October. Meet trip leader José-Miguel Ponciano (352-231-0997) in the GTMNER parking lot off AIA. We will walk over to the hawk-watching platform at the north end of the park in hopes of seeing Peregrines and other migrating raptors. During the second half of the morning, we'll walk a woodland trail in search of fall warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, and thrushes. Difficulty: 2.

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 8:00 am

***Barr Hammock Preserve - South Trail (Woodlands)**

300 SE 175th Ave, Micanopy, FL

Meet trip leader Stephen Hofstetter at the parking area off CR 234. Barr Hammock forms a land bridge between Ledwith and Levy Prairies. It is a county jewel that provides habitat for a wide diversity of upland and wetland species. We should see some migrant birds on this walk, and we'll benefit from the leader's extensive knowledge by looking at everything – trees, wildflowers, insects, reptiles – whatever we find and certainly birds. Difficulty: 2.

***Conservation Lands Education Program (CLEP)**

Trips noted as CLEP highlight lands that protect plant and animal life and focus on their history and uniqueness.

Saturday, October 8, 2022; 8:00 am

Blues Creek Ravine Preserve

Meet Tim Hardin at the roadside parking area on NW 71st St (off Millhopper Road). We will bird down 69th Avenue to the trailhead at 6710 NW 69th Ave. Managed by Alachua Conservation Trust, this recently opened 160-acre preserve is described as “an almost pristine example of a north Florida upland habitat.” Late September and early October is the period of maximum fall migrant diversity. We will search for migrant warblers along the wooded trail, as well as thrushes, grosbeaks, tanagers, and other species. We will have lovely views of a steep ravine and Blues Creek. The narrow and uneven unpaved trail may have exposed roots or stumps. Difficulty: 2.

Saturday, October 15, 2022; 8:00 am.

San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park - North Side of Millhopper Road

Meet Bubba Scales at the trailhead parking lot at 11101 Millhopper Road to walk the wide shady trails through sandy hammocks, pine-lands, and sandhills. We hope to see late migrating warblers such as Black-throated Blue Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and others, and possibly some arriving winter residents. Difficulty: 3.

(Continued on page 3)

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 8:00 am

Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park – La Chua Trail

Meet trip leader Felicia Lee at the La Chua Trail parking lot at 4810 Camp Ranch Road. La Chua is historically one of the area's best birding hotspots and it supports a tremendous bird population including wading birds, waterfowl, raptors, warblers, and others. This Hot Spot is ever-changing and can provide unexpected avian surprises. Difficulty: 2.

Sunday October 23, 2022, 8:00 am

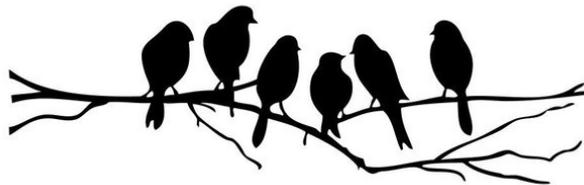
Saarinen Preserve, 3208 NW 186 St, Newberry, FL

Meet trip leader Barbara Shea at the trailhead parking lot in Jonesville. This 78-acre park was donated to Alachua Conservation Trust in the late 1990s by Arthur and Phyllis Saarinen. It has a mix of forest types. Some of the long-leaf pine and live oaks trees are thought to be hundreds of years old. The 2.6 miles of trails are mostly wide and flat, and we hope to see a variety of migrants. Take NW 32nd Ave west from the Jonesville Soccer Park on 241 for about two miles. Just after a sharp right turn onto NW 186 St you will see the Preserve on the left. Difficulty: an easy 2.

Saturday, October 29, 2022; 9:00 am

Dudley Farm, 18730 W. Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL

Join trip leaders Jason and Kelly O'Connor to bird at Dudley Farm, a one-of-a-kind, authentic working Florida farm that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The mixed habitats at Dudley Farm – wooded uplands, pastures, and brushy fence rows – offer a diversity of habitats for a variety of different birds. Difficulty: 2.



Thank You, Emily Schwartz!

Long-time Alachua Audubon Board member Emily Schwartz recently stepped down from serving on the Alachua Audubon Society Board of Directors. Emily has served AAS for over 25 years and played numerous roles in our organization. She organized and hosted our evening programs at the Millhopper Library for years and more recently on Zoom. She was the host of our December holiday social at the Mill Pond clubhouse for many years and organized the silent auction that was once one of our main fundraisers. She has always been a willing volunteer at festivals, staffing our booth and interacting with the public. If you have given a donation to AAS recently or assisted with our programs, you probably received a handwritten thank you note from Emily.

For many years, Emily organized the Audubon Adventures educational program with teachers in the local schools. She spearheaded the Saturday family birding walks at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. In the past two years she helped initiate the Alachua County library “birding kit” program that provides backpacks with binoculars, field guides and birding information to library patrons for checkout.

As a former school teacher, education was always Emily’s passion and, as is evident from this list of activities in which she was involved, she put that passion into action. The Board is so very appreciative and grateful for Emily’s service over the years. We are a stronger organization thanks to her efforts. Although Emily will no longer serve on the Board, she plans to still be involved with Alachua Audubon in our educational efforts.

Thank you, Emily, from the bottom of our hearts.

By Anne Casella

Audubon Evening Programs

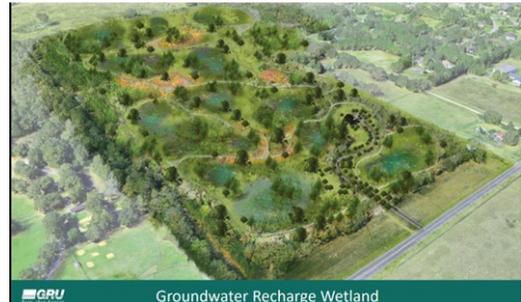
Thursday, September 8th, at 7:00 p.m. “Gainesville’s Treatment Wetlands – Sweetwater Wetlands Park and the Proposed Groundwater Recharge Wetland” by Debbie Segal



The ecological, recreational, and ecotourism benefits of GRU’s Sweetwater Wetlands Park are wide-ranging and represent a triple crown winner for water quality, wildlife, and visitors. Because of Sweetwater’s many community-wide benefits, GRU has decided to construct a second treatment wetland, one that will be located on the west side of

- Gainesville and will be designed to
- recharge the Floridan Aquifer with
- cleaner water.

Join Debbie Segal for this informative presentation and learn how Sweetwater Wetlands Park and other constructed treatment wetlands successfully and inconspicuously clean water, and about GRU’s plans for a new system – the Groundwater Recharge Wetland.



Join the Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82037568958?pwd=OWk5SThaL2NLWTRXcm1jUzFiMUUpVQT09>

Meeting ID: 945 274 5251 Passcode: 419052

or find it on the AAS website under Events and Activities ->[Programs](#)

Please give us your feedback!

Please follow the link below to a short survey to let us know your thoughts about our evening programs (held via Zoom since the onset of COVID-19). Whether you are a regular attendee or haven't attended recently, we would like to hear from you! We strive to bring you exciting and educational programs that interest you. Please fill out this survey to let us know how we can serve you better. <https://forms.gle/fM7r35CmDxMiyxtF6>

Thank you in advance,

Zach Holmes, AAS Board of Directors and Evening Program Coordinator

Would you like to be reminded when our programs are nearing? If so, send an email to programs@alachuaudubon.org and you will be sent an email reminder prior to each program.

Past AAS Programs Available Online

Miss one of the AAS evening programs? Watch them online at your leisure from the [Programs](#) page of our website at www.alachuaudubon.org/programs/



Suspect a crime against Florida’s birds, fish, wildlife or natural resources? See an injured animal? Report incidents to FWC’s Wildlife Alert Reward Program online or call 888-404-3922. From your cell phone call *FWC or #FWC, or send a message to Tip@MyFWC.com. Learn more at [MyFWC/contact/wildlife-alert](https://www.fwc.com/contact/wildlife-alert).

Weekday Bird Rambles

A lachua Audubon is offering weekday birding trips after several people requested easier, more leisurely outings than our more energetic weekend fare. We typically walk one mile or less and stay on wide paths and even terrain.

If you would like to be added to the email contact list for these weekday “bird rambles,” please send an email to AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com. Membership is not required to participate (but individual membership costs just \$25, strengthens our voice in conservation efforts, and is greatly appreciated).

By Karen Brown



Bird rambblers at Palm Point Park on Newnan’s Lake.

Meet New People—Share Your Passions

Mark Elliott, President of the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, has invited friends and members of Alachua Audubon to attend the first meeting of their Fall series. Dr. Reed Noss, a renowned ecologist and excellent speaker, will be giving a presentation. Mark says, “We would enjoy meeting new people and sharing our passions.” The meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 21st, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 4225 NW 34th St., Gainesville. A plant ID workshop begins at 6:30 and the program begins at 7 PM.

Be sure to visit the AAS booth at the two festivals listed below!

SAVE THE DATE!

**2ND ANNUAL
PRIDE
AT PRAIRIE CREEK**

October 16th • 10 AM to 3 PM
7204 Co Rd 234
Gainesville, FL 32641
www.alachuaconservationtrust.org/upcoming-events/pride2022



ALACHUA
CONSERVATION
TRUST

Annual Lubee Bat Festival

Lubee Bat Conservancy invites you to our 18th Annual Florida Bat Festival to be held Saturday, October 22nd, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come celebrate with us as we continue to spread bat conservation awareness and enjoy all the batty festivities! Our family-friendly festival promises to be another fun-filled event this year.

ADMISSION/DONATION:
\$5 AGES 5-12 | \$8 AGES 13 & up
KIDS 4 AND UNDER FREE



Lubee Bat Conservancy is an international non-profit organization dedicated to saving bats and their habitats through research, conservation, and education, with a focus on children and community engagement.



**WE HOPE TO SEE
YOU THERE!!**

**Sweetwater Wetlands Park &
Alachua Audubon Society**
Present
**Wednesday Bird
Walks at the Wetlands**



When: Every Wednesday @ 8:30 am
from September - May

Where: Sweetwater Wetlands Park -
Entrance Pavilion

Walks are free with park admission fee (\$5/vehicle)
Bring water, binoculars, sunscreen, and walking shoes



AAS Goes to Summer Camp!

Alachua Audubon vice-president Tim Hardin and volunteer Stephanie Hornbuckle were invited to Cuscowilla Summer Camp in Micanopy this year to teach young kids and teenagers about birding in the great outdoors. AAS provided loaner binoculars for the weekly outings. It was a great experience for Tim and Stephanie as well as the many children who participated.

Photos by E. Jane Luzar.





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LIBRARY District

BORROW A BIRDING KIT!

Spot eagles, cranes, and wrens with a Birding Kit created by your library and the Alachua Audubon Society.

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- Local resource guide
- Birding field guide book



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www.aclib.us/birdingkits



Call for Helpers!

Would you like to spend time outdoors in the fresh air with friendly people?

- * No special skills required!
- * The worst of summer will be behind us!
- * Bird sightings a distinct probability!
- * Prairie Creek nature trails nearby!

The now thriving AAS Native Plant Garden next to the Prairie Creek Banding Lab needs weeding after the long, rainy summer. Efforts will begin in September. Interested helpers can send an email to contact@alachuaudubon.org for additional information. Restroom on site. Bring your own gloves, water, and tools if you have them (or use our tools). It will be fun!

Would you like to partner with Alachua Audubon and support specific programs?

If so, here are some suggestions.

Donate a New or Used Pair of Binoculars to the GHS birding club and help us introduce more high school students to birding. Binoculars cost approximately \$125, however, your extra set of used binoculars will be gladly accepted. If you would like to help, please send an email to Contact@AlachuaAudubon.org.

Sponsor a College Intern – AAS provides valuable internship experiences to college students who learn and practice mist-netting, bird banding, nest box monitoring, and more. Interns receive a \$400 scholarship at the completion of their program. Consider contributing to the AAS college internship fund with any amount.

Contribute to the Bird Banding Lab – We are continually improving and expanding this facility. Any donation to this important project is greatly appreciated. *Donors will be treated to a tour of the Bird Banding Lab.*

To donate any amount, scroll down to the **Donate** button on our [Membership Page](#), choose or enter an amount, and add a note (the note option is available once you are logged in to PayPal) stating the program to which you are donating. You may also send a check and a note to AAS at the address on the last page of this newsletter. Please send an email to AlachuaAudubonTreasurer@gmail.com if you would like assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alachua Audubon Society

Alachua Audubon Society, Inc. is one of more than 40 Audubon chapters in Florida and is chartered by the National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida. We are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

Bird Watching Class Offered

Calling all bird enthusiasts! Santa Fe College, in partnership with Alachua Audubon, is offering a bird watching course from September 10th to October 1st on Saturday mornings.

The course consists of 4 field trips to local natural environments, guided by experienced birders. Field trips begin at 8:30 AM, and each trip will last 2-2.5 hours. Register online for the class at the Santa Fe College Community Education website: (www.sfcollge.edu/communityed/). Click on “Registration,” “Take a Class,” and “Outdoor Adventures.” The course number is NAT00003.1B6. Or register by phone by calling the registrar at 352-395-5193. Note: registrants must be at least 18 years old.

Registration opened August 17th and is limited so please register right away. If you are unable to attend this fall, classes will also be offered for Fall B, Winter and Spring terms .



Follow us on [Facebook!](#)



Check us out on Instagram
[@alachuaaudubon](#)

Monthly Birds and Brews

The AAS Birds and Brews event continues to be popular with both new and experienced birders. Meet the first Sunday afternoon of the month at [First Magnitude Brewery](#), 1220 SE Veitch St. Arrive early as parking can be scarce. There will be an Alachua Audubon table set up and **loaner binoculars will be available**. It's a lovely time of day for a leisurely stroll around the Depot Park ponds to look for birds. Then we'll return to First Magnitude for an optional brew and conversation.

All birding skill levels are welcome!

Next event: Sunday, October 2nd at 5:45 p.m.





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The Crane
Sept – Oct 2022

Join Alachua Audubon! Membership Application

Benefits of membership include expert-led field trips, programs for adults and youth, *The Crane* bi-monthly newsletter, conservation advocacy with local & state legislators, & more.

Gift Memberships Available!

Annual Membership Levels

Choosing a higher level provides additional support for your local chapter.

Student	\$10	Individual	\$25
Family	\$35	Limpkin	\$50
Purple Gallinule			\$100
Swallow-tailed Kite			\$250
Sandhill Crane			\$500
Whooping Crane*			\$1,000

(*bestows lifetime membership)

Sliding scale membership fees are welcome.

Simply send what you can afford.

Join online with PayPal

www.alachuaaudubon.org/membership/

or send your application and check payable to

Alachua Audubon Society

to: PO Box 140464, Gainesville, FL 32614-0464

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

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Alachua Audubon (AAS) is an official chapter of **National Audubon** and **Audubon Florida**. If you belong to National Audubon and live in our area, you are automatically a member of AAS.

To join National Audubon, please go to AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership where you will be directed to their membership page.

Alachua Audubon is a 501(c)3 organization.

Audubon Membership Explained

To join Audubon at the local level, please visit the AAS website where you may use PayPal to pay by credit card. You may also complete the membership form to the left, or print a form at [Alachua Audubon.org/Membership](http://AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership). Choose the membership level that is appropriate for you. Mail the completed form with your check, payable to **Alachua Audubon Society**, to the address provided.

To join Audubon at the National level, go to AlachuaAudubon.org/Membership where you will be directed to the NAS membership page. Your introductory membership will be credited to our local chapter and you will become an annual member of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Florida and Alachua Audubon, with one-year subscriptions to National *Audubon* magazine, *Audubon Florida Naturalist* magazine, and Alachua Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter, *The Crane*.

Please send any questions to AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com