



The Crane

Volume 65 Number 2 Nov – Dec 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a magnificent fall migration this has been, with many species of warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Swainson's Thrush, and others briefly pausing in our woods before continuing on their marathon journey. I am amazed every fall as I witness nature's miracle – these birds winging their way thousands of miles to Central and South America, many of which emerged from a protective egg just a few short months ago. And come spring, they will pass by us again, decked out in their finest plumage on their way north to claim a territory and raise a brood.

Alachua Audubon has led 24 field trips in September and October that provided many opportunities to view fall migrants. These field trips included weekly outings at Sweetwater Wetlands Park on Wednesday mornings at 8:30, weekend field trips to local hotspots, Birds and Brews on the first Sunday afternoon of each month, weekday Bird Rambles, and the Santa Fe College birding class. Outings will continue through May.

We are pleased to announce the return of the very popular Alachua Audubon Holiday Social, to be held on Friday, December 1st from 6:30-8:30 at the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Avenue). All are welcome to attend and we ask that you bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverages. Bird and nature-related books will be for sale at any donation amount you wish to pay. Likewise, feel free to donate any topic-related books and we will include them in our fundraiser book sale.

Alachua Audubon has had an unprecedented number of interns this semester – six enthusiastic college students who have been learning about kestrels, native plants, and educational outreach at local festivals. And we just added two more college students – those being Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) students who

will be mentored throughout the school year in an Audubon Florida program.

Avian educational opportunities are not just limited to college students, but rather extend through the full spectrum of grades. Alachua Audubon continues to support the Gainesville High School Birding Club by providing funds for bird seed, optics, and other related items. We are thrilled to have just recently started the Alachua County chapter of the Young Birders Club, which includes avian enthusiasts ages 9-17. We provide birding and conservation programs as requested for any school grade, homeschoolers, and groups such as camps and the public library. We continue to support the birding club at Rawlings Elementary School, as well as fund the bus transportation for 4th graders to attend nature classes at Morningside Nature Center and Sweetwater Wetlands Park.

Just around the corner will be the exciting Christmas Bird Counts, five in this area alone if you are driven like me to spend long exhausting days searching for and counting birds. A list of the local CBCs is provided on page 2. Please contact the listed compiler if you are interested in participating in any of these day-long bird surveys.

Continued next page

Inside this issue:

Holiday Social; Christmas Bird Counts	p. 2
Field Trips; Evening Program	p. 3
North Shore Festival; Young Birders	p. 4
Florida Scrub Jays	p. 5
Book Reviews	p. 6
Remembering Nan Soistman	p. 7-8
Fun with Cooper's Hawks	p. 9

Continued from page 1

Alachua Audubon staffed a festival booth at four festivals this fall – the Climate Summit, Young Leaders of Wild Florida, Pride at Prairie Creek, and the Lubee Bat Festival. Our fall interns assisted in staffing our booth and we were able to advocate for birds, nature, and conservation to the many attendees who visited our festival booth.

By the time you receive this newsletter, fall migration should be winding down. Wintering birds such as Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, ducks, sparrows, and others will be arriving and settling in to spend their winter in sunny Florida. Robins will be arriving soon as well as Cedar Waxwings. And interspersed amongst these wintering birds could be all sorts of avian surprises.

Happy birding,
Debbie Segal

The AAS Holiday Social is Back!

Come celebrate birds, conservation, and the holidays with the Alachua Audubon Society! Due to the pandemic, the last time AAS held a holiday social was December 2019, so we are very excited that we will have a chance to gather with friends, members, colleagues, and birders this year – everyone is welcome! Please go through your shelves and donate bird and nature-related books, CDs, and DVDs that others might enjoy and you would like to send on to new homes. Others may purchase these items for a donation of any amount to AAS. You may call 352-256-5960 to have your items picked up or you can bring them with you to the social. Please bring a food or drink item to share with your birding friends or with new friends if you're joining us for the first time. Let's celebrate another year of exciting activities with Alachua Audubon. The social will be held at the United Church of Gainesville located at 1624 NW 5th Avenue on Friday, December 1 from 6:30-8:30. There is a parking lot on the east side of the church. Find us in the fellowship hall off the courtyard.



Christmas Bird Counts Coming Up!

The excitement is starting to build for one of the birding events of the year: **the John Hintermister Gainesville Christmas Bird Count is Sunday, December 17, 2023.** We have built a great tradition over our long history (more than 50 years). The Gainesville CBC has become a model count, well-run and highly organized with great local participation. The count is named for the late John Hintermister, the compiler who brought us well along to our current high standards. Although we are on neither the Atlantic nor the Gulf coasts, we are often at or near the top of all of Florida counts in terms of diversity. We also traditionally rank among the best counts in the country for most species with the highest numbers of individuals, and we have set all time national highs for several species (e.g., Limpkin, Snail Kite, Pileated Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Black-and-white Warbler).

Five CBCs will take place in north Florida between December 15th and January 4th. If you are interested in participating, please contact the compiler(s) listed below.

Gainesville: Sunday, Dec. 17. Contact Andy Kratter at kratter@flmnh.ufl.edu, 352-226-2462 or Bob Carroll at gatorbob23@yahoo.com, 352-281-3616. The evening count-up will be at United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave) from 5:30-9:30.

Melrose: Friday, Dec. 15. Contact Laura Berkelman at lberkelman@windstream.net. Volunteers needed.

Ichetucknee/Santa Fe/O'Leno: Tuesday, Dec. 19 Contact Ginger Feagle at Ginger.Feagle@myfwc.com or 386-586-8249. Volunteers needed.

Lake City: Wednesday, Dec. 27. Contact Valerie Thomas at v.thomas57@gmail.com or 386-466-2193. Volunteers needed.

Cedar Key: Thursday, Jan. 4. Contact Jonathan Varol at jvarol@gmail.com or 352-226-4472. Volunteers needed.

*The **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** is an annual census of birds administered by the National Audubon Society. CBCs are intense, day-long surveys by experienced birders but anyone may volunteer to assist. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle and is organized by a count compiler. Volunteers identify and tally all birds they see and hear along their specified routes or within their designated zones. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.*

**Field Trip—Lake City Treatment Wetlands,
Saturday, December 9, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**

The Lake City Treatment Wetlands is a series of nine wetland cells that were constructed to treat Lake City's wastewater. The wetlands attract a wide range of waterfowl, wading birds, and other species. This site is not open to the public and the gate will be closed after we enter, so please don't be late. We will park at the wetland and walk the raised berms that surround the wetland cells, first birding the lagoon and scoping for waterfowl.

There are two meeting options for this field trip. If you are coming from the Gainesville area, please meet trip leader and Alachua Audubon chapter president Debbie Segal at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Hitchcock's Grocery Store on US-441 in Alachua to carpool to the second meeting location. Alternatively, you can meet at 8:30 a.m. at the SS/Inland Gas Station (building in front of Wendys), which is one block west of I-75 at Exit #423. We will then caravan the short distance to the wetlands together as a group. Difficulty: 3 (walking 2-3 miles).

**Bird Ramble, Turkey Creek Preserve,
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**

Bird rambles are weekday field trips to locations with relatively easy trails. Expert birder Mike Manetz will lead us on a ramble at Turkey Creek Preserve to find late fall migrants, red-headed woodpeckers, and more. We will take a casual 2-3 mile walk on well marked, mostly wide, and relatively even trails. There are multiple points to turn around for those wanting a shorter walk. Meet at the Main trailhead parking lot at 6300 NW 93rd Ave. at 8:00 a.m.

Officially opened in 2021, this 376-acre preserve with 5 miles of trails allows to see multiple ecosystems. The preserve buffers adjacent San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and protects our drinking water. From SR 26/Newberry Road, take NW 43rd St north. Continue almost to 441 but turn left on NW 93rd Ave. Follow 93rd Ave 1.3 miles to the trailhead parking area on the right (a little past 59th Terr). From 441, head north from Gainesville to NW 93rd Ave. Turn left and drive 1.6 miles. The Preserve will be on your right.



Evening Program

**Birds of Southeast Arizona: their beauty,
ecology, and where to find them**

November 16th at 7PM via Zoom*

Southeast Arizona is one of the most popular birdwatching destinations in the United States. But what makes this small corner of the US so special for our feathered friends? Come join Mitch Walters, a PhD candidate studying ornithology and ecology at the University of Florida, as he takes you through his incredible birding trip from the scorching deserts to towering sky islands of SE Arizona. Learn about its birds, their ecology, and how you can plan a trip of your own to see some of the most sought-after species the US has to offer.

*Zoom link will be provided on our website calendar and Facebook page.

An Elegant Trogon. Photo by Mitch Walters.

North Shore Birding Festival

The eighth annual NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL on Lake Apopka in Central Florida, sponsored by [Orange Audubon Society](#), runs Thursday, November 30th through Monday, December 4th. Registration is now open! The festival spotlights the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, an Important Bird Area and the top eBird hotspot in Florida. Nearly 370 species of birds have been sighted, more than any inland site in the U.S. including the Everglades.

To encourage younger participants, many trips are half price for college students with their .edu email address. We also have many amazing young trip leaders. Trip #41 is designed to bring together **a critical mass of college students from around the state** and is available only on the Student Signup until **November 5th**. After that time the slots will be released to our regular participant audience.

The NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL does not have an exhibit hall and central registration site. You will travel in your own car and meet at the site listed for each field trip. Keynotes with dinners and night activities are held at the Youth Camp at Wekiwa Springs State Park.

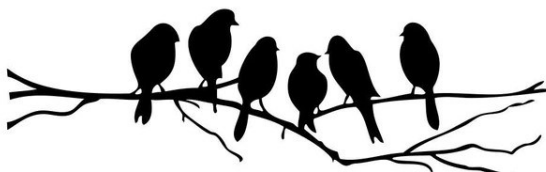
View festival offerings here: northshorebirdingfestival.com/schedule. Visit [the website](#) to see the festival schedule, speaker and leader biographies, and locations and lodging. For any questions or problems with registration, please email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call (407) 637-2525.

AAS Young Birders Club

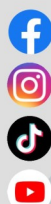
Calling all young bird enthusiasts! Alachua Audubon has recently launched a local chapter of the Florida Young Birders Club (FYBC)! The FYBC is a statewide initiative designed to connect and empower birders and future conservation leaders from the ages of 9-17. Members will have the opportunity to attend monthly local birding trips and participate in a variety of bird-related activities.

The FYBC is planning a number of exciting activities for new members to take part in! Any interested young birders are encouraged to reach out to Alachua Audubon for information on joining the chapter. Send an email to contact@AlachuaAudubon.org.

By Bella Gonzalez



Florida Young Birders Club



The Florida Young Birders Club is welcoming people ages 9 - 17 in Florida who have an interest in birds or birding. We have active chapters in Tampa Bay, Orlando, and St. Augustine plus new chapters forming in Sarasota, Charlotte Harbor and Gainesville.

Our club offers:

- Unique field outings
- Monthly virtual guest speaker events
- A chance to communicate with other young birders in a secure space
- Member discount on Vortex optics



Scan the code to join!



Habitat Restoration of Ocala National Forest Supports the World's Largest Florida Scrub-Jay Population



Florida Scrub-Jays. Photo by Roxy Ohanyan.

Ocala National Forest (ONF) is a vast and relatively unexplored treasure within a 45-minute drive of Alachua County. Birdwatching specialties that are easily observed include Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Southeastern American Kestrels, and Bachman's Sparrows.

In addition, ONF is home to the largest remaining population of Florida Scrub-Jays. For the past 80 years or so, most sand pine forest at ONF has been managed for pulpwood harvest in rotations of 40-50 years. Young clearcuts contain regenerating scrub oaks that provide good scrub-jay habitat for several years before the sand pines crowd them out.

In recent years, the US Forest Service has set aside large "Scrub-Jay Management Areas" to be regularly burned and managed as early-successional scrub. This exciting new program is the largest scrub restoration project ever attempted in Florida!

We recently completed a decade-long population study at ONF, where we color banded and monitored the survival and productivity of more than 800 scrub-jays. Our most conservative population model suggests that the ONF population is now between 1,800 and 1,900 family groups, which constitutes more than 40% of the statewide population.

Birders and photographers can find lots of Florida Scrub-Jays in well-managed scrub on open, rolling ridges easily accessed from state highway 40. The Southern Scrub Jay Management Area (29.12121 degrees N, 81.81206 degrees W) is accessed by turning south onto Forest Road 5, and the Hughes Scrub Jay Management Area (29.24758 degrees N, 81.77055 degrees W) is accessed by turning north onto Forest Road 11.



Scrub-Jay habitat. Photo by Karl Miller.

By Karl Miller

Karl E. Miller, Ph.D., is an Avian Research Scientist at the Fish & Wildlife Research Institute of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, and a Courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation at the University of Florida.

BOOK REVIEWS by Emily Schwartz

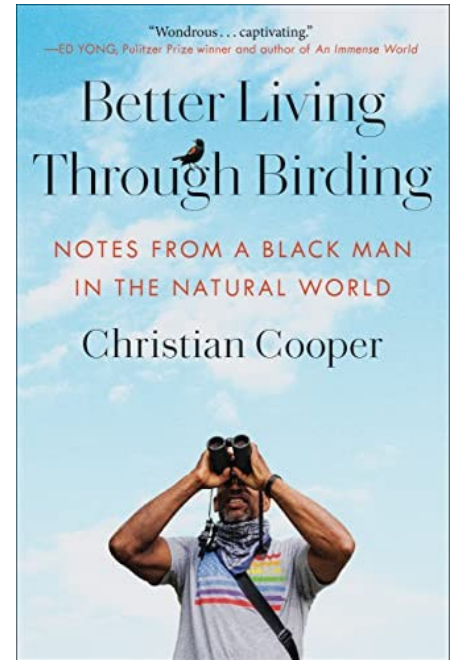
Better Living Through Birding: Notes From a Black Man in the Natural World by Christian Cooper

This book is about birding but it isn't *just* about birding. Cooper gives us tips and guidelines, shares his passion for watching birds, tells of birds he has enjoyed seeing around the world and especially in Central Park where he is a well-known regular. The first chapter makes you want to grab your binoculars and get out there and enjoy some birds. However, the book is mainly a memoir of his 60 years of life. Don't let that dissuade you! He has had a fascinating life and is a natural storyteller.

Cooper tells us about his childhood, his difficult relations with his parents, his acceptance of being gay, his love of comics and his job with Marvel Comics where he helped introduce the first gay character. He has traveled widely and shares these experiences too.

Cooper became famous when birding in Central Park. He asked a woman to leash her dog. When she refused, he began filming her with his phone. The situation escalated when she called the police and told them a black man was threatening her in Central Park and she needed help. His video, shared with a sister who posted it online, went viral and was viewed 45 million times. You will be interested in his reaction to the ensuing riot of attention.

National Geographic tagged Cooper to be the star of a series of videos called *Extraordinary Birder with Christian Cooper*. Some Season 1 episodes can be viewed on YouTube and elsewhere. I found this book so well written and entertaining that I have recommended it to many friends (some of whom are not really interested in birds). I think you will find the book delightful too. Available at the Alachua County Library system.



Woman, Watching by Marilyn Simonds

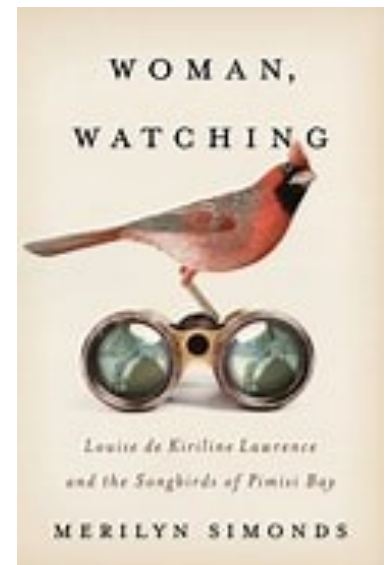
Woman, *Watching* is the life story of Louise de Kiriline Lawrence (1894 – 1992), a Swedish woman who became a noted Canadian nonprofessional ornithologist. Although not educated in a university, her published work recording bird behavior resulted in bird watchers and ornithologists seeking her out and even visiting her log cabin in remote Ontario.

Her unusual life story begins when she falls in love with a Russian army officer, moves to isolated northern Russia, trains as a nurse and suffers great hardships during the Bolshevik Revolution. She learns her husband has been executed in a mass shooting and moves to Canada. There she becomes the nurse for the first year of life of the then famous Dionne Quintuplets.

Treasuring her forested cabin life she becomes interested in birds and begins to observe them, taking careful notes. A lifetime as a writer about bird life ensues, including seven books and many, many articles (including for Audubon magazine), and over 500 reviews of ornithological books.

Her devotion to her craft will amaze you; she once watched a single red-eyed vireo for 14 hours straight and recorded 22,197 songs the bird sang in one day. This record was never bested. She considered bird song a language.

The author of this biography knew Louise personally and wrote parts of the book in Louise's cabin. Reading this book helped me remember that sitting still and watching quietly as birds go about their activities can be a beautiful experience.



A Sad Farewell to Nan Soistman

It is with the heaviest hearts that we share the passing of Nan Soistman – Founder of Sunrise Wildlife Rehabilitation. She was an incredible wife, mother, sister, daughter, friend and, on top of all of that, a savior to countless animals. If you ever had the privilege to meet Nan, you know how genuine, caring, gentle, and kind her heart was. Her passion for nature and animals began at an early age. Her childhood friends would refer to her as the “horse whisperer”. What they didn’t realize at that time was that Nan would go on to be an owl, opossum, squirrel, hawk, songbird, snake, tortoise and bunny “whisperer” too. Her journey into the wildlife rehabilitation world started when her son, Adam, found an injured infant squirrel on their property. With no training or knowledge at this point, they turned to their instincts. They kept the squirrel warm, dark, quiet and called the closest wildlife rehabilitator. They were determined to learn how to save this squirrel. With thorough instructions and care from the rehabber, they ended up successfully raising the squirrel and releasing it back on their property. This experience immediately ignited Nan’s interest in helping our native wildlife.



A celebration of life is being held at O’leno State Park on November 12th at 12pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please visit the [Sunrise Wildlife Facebook page](#) or contact Christina at 585-507-1567.

Over the next few years, she would absorb as much knowledge as possible while working under the permits of a local wildlife rehabilitation facility. She attended many Florida Wildlife Rehabilitators Association workshops, obtained certifications for homeopathic treatments, and read every book out there. With the help of her husband, Joe, they built several enclosures on their property and converted their back porch into a rehab center. One bedroom turned into supply storage and another bedroom became the ICU. She built a network of volunteers and established strong relationships with local veterinarians. In 2016, she felt ready to branch off and create an organization of her own. That is when Sunrise Wildlife was born.

Nan dove right in, building Sunrise from the ground up. She learned how to become a registered 501c3 non-profit and how to obtain the correct federal and state permits. She learned how to fundraise, how to use social media, created a website and even got an iPhone (this was a big deal). Once up and running, Sunrise expanded exponentially. She and her network of volunteers would go on to rescue, rehabilitate, and release thousands of animals back into the wild. Nan quickly became one of the most valuable and respected wildlife rehabilitators in the state. She became a vital resource for the public as well as for aspiring rehabilitators and volunteers.

During peak breeding seasons, her phone rang non-stop. Still, Nan never let a person go unanswered or left an animal uncared for. She would stay on the phone with you and wait for a wren to come back to an “abandoned” nest. She would answer your call at midnight for an owl that was on the side of the road. She would talk you through the steps of reuniting a baby squirrel with its mother that had fallen out of a tree. If you called her about a fledgling songbird on the ground, she would teach you that this behavior is normal and, most of the time, the parents are right there watching it. She had a way of calming people down while finding the best course of action for the animal. Quality care was always her top priority and she always tried to leave you with more knowledge than you had before.

Over the years, Nan started to realize that educating the public was one of the most rewarding parts of her “job”. So, she decided to explore another avenue for Sunrise...the educational outreach programs. These programs grew in popularity and were very well attended. What made the programs stand out was the presence of our wildlife ambassadors. These ambassadors have been deemed non-releasable by a veterinarian because of disabilities

that would make it impossible for them to survive in the wild. Nothing made Nan happier than seeing people's eyes light up when they saw an owl, an opossum, or a snake up close for the very first time, inspiring an appreciation for creatures that are often misunderstood. She was a voice for animals who couldn't speak for themselves and a true wildlife advocate. This opportunity to teach the public about the importance of conserving our native wildlife is what truly mattered to her at the end of the day.

In addition to everything else she accomplished, Nan recently passed the exam to become an apprentice falconer with the hope of becoming a master one day. This alone shows the type of person she was. Even through her treatments, surgeries, and appointments, she persevered and was one step closer to fulfilling a life-long dream.

Nan's unexpected passing does not mean the end of Sunrise Wildlife. It's just the beginning of a new chapter for this organization. No one will ever replace her or be able to fill her shoes. Her unwavering

passion for helping people and wildlife is what drove her to start Sunrise. We are so grateful that she instilled this same passion in us, and we promise to do everything in our power to continue Nan's legacy. We are a small, family-run organization and are asking for your patience as we try to navigate the loss of a wife, mother, and a HUGE part of the wildlife rehabilitation community. Thankfully, we have amazing off-site volunteers who will try to help us fill this void.



Sunrise also has 13 wildlife ambassadors that need our attention every single day. That is our top priority right now. From supplies and food to vet visits and insurance, we need to continue providing extraordinary care to these 13 ambassadors that have given so much to our community. They have created wonder in the faces of thousands of children and made adults feel like kids again. They have facilitated appreciation; they have made people care. Now, we need your help to care for them. If you are able, please consider donating on our website: <https://www.sunrisewildlife.org/how-you-can-help/>.

Nan's mission was simple...to love and conserve wildlife. Although the world has lost a legendary soul, far too soon, the impact she made and her bright spirit will be felt for a very, very long time. We hope you are flying high and soaring free, Nan. We hope you know just how loved you were.

And as Nan would always say...

Stay Wild,

Joe, Adam, and Christina Soistman

We would also like to express our immense gratitude for the Alachua Audubon Society. They have supported Sunrise Wildlife for several years and have helped fund multiple projects. Most recently, their donation made our Barn Owl enclosure expansion possible. Nan was so excited about this project. Sadly, she won't get to see it completed but we are actively working on it. We will share our progress soon on our Facebook page.

Watching a Successful Nest

Becky Enneis recently had the pleasure of watching a nest of Cooper’s Hawks successfully grow and fledge their nest. She says, “The parents would sometimes leave a squirrel on the ground at the edge of the back woods, and sometimes the fledglings would all fly up to the nest to eat. I watched the youngsters make pathetic attempts at catching their own squirrels – the squirrels would just step aside and continue to go about their business. The birds, two males and two females, spent several weeks, mostly in the oak tree, practicing flying and landing and figuring out how to catch food. The air was filled with the sounds of their whistle calls. Then one week they started flying over the house and landing in the front yard trees. And the next week they were gone.” Thanks for sharing, Becky!



*All photos are of nestlings except bottom left—
one of the parent birds. All photos by Becky
Enneis.*

**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



Project FeederWatch

Here's a way to contribute to bird conservation from home. Project FeederWatch is a November-April survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. All you need is an area with plantings, habitat, water, or food that attracts birds. The schedule is completely flexible. Count your birds for as long as you like on days of your choosing, then enter your counts online. Your counts allow you to track what is happening to birds around your home and to contribute to a continental dataset of bird distribution and abundance.

Project FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by its participants. The annual participation fee is \$18 for U.S. residents. These contributions cover materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and the year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). Participants also receive the double-sided poster of eastern and western common feeder birds, a calendar, and more. Without the support of participants, this project wouldn't be possible. Learn more at [Project Overview - FeederWatch](#).



Be sure to check out the following!

Follow [AAS on Facebook!](#)

Follow [AAS on Instagram!](#)



View [AAS programs on YouTube!](#)

[Alachua County Birding on Facebook](#)

[Alachua County Rare Bird Alert on Facebook](#)

Sweetwater Wetlands Park Offers Mobility Tours

Mobility tours are now available upon request at Sweetwater Wetlands Park. Please schedule tours at least two weeks in advance by calling [352-554-5871](tel:352-554-5871). For other special needs accommodations, please call [352-554-5871](tel:352-554-5871) 48 hours in advance. Visit the park website [here](#).





BORROW A BIRDING KIT!

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

Each backpack contains:

- Binoculars
- Local resource guide
- Birding field guide book



Reserve a kit online for pick up at your preferred library branch. Kits check out for 14 days.

www.aclib.us/birdingkits

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 is 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, November 5th at 4:15 p.m.



BIRDS AND BREWS

GUIDED BIRD WALKS THROUGH DEPOT PARK WITH THE ALACHUA AUDUBON SOCIETY



Native plant restoration
Biological Monitoring
Invasive/exotic plant surveys & control
Tree surveys & hazard tree evaluation

Erick D. Smith
erick@kestreleco.com

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Join Alachua Audubon!

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

Gift Memberships Available!

Annual Membership Levels

Choosing a higher level provides additional support for our conservation & education efforts.

Student	\$10	Individual	\$25
Family	\$35	Limpkin	\$50
Purple Gallinule			\$100
Swallow-tailed Kite			\$250
Sandhill Crane			\$500
Whooping Crane (<i>lifetime membership</i>)			\$1,000

Sliding scale memberships welcome. Send what you can afford.

Join online with PayPal at AlachuaAudubon.org/join/ or send your application (print from the website) and check payable to **Alachua Audubon Society** to PO Box 140464, Gainesville, FL 32614-0464. Include your name, address and email. *The Crane is distributed via email. Your email address will not be shared with other organizations.*

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

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

A portion of your introductory membership will be credited to our local chapter and you will become an annual member of the [National Audubon Society](http://NationalAudubon.org), [Audubon Florida](http://AudubonFlorida.org) and [Alachua Audubon](http://AlachuaAudubon.org), with one-year subscriptions to National *Audubon* magazine, *Audubon Florida Naturalist* magazine, and Alachua Audubon’s bi-monthly newsletter, *The Crane*. To **renew** your National membership, click [here](#).

Please send any questions to AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com

Alachua Audubon is a 501(c)3 organization. A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) or visiting their website at fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources. The state registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Alachua Audubon Officers & Committee Chairpersons

- President.....Debbie Segal
- Vice President..... Tim Hardin
- SecretaryFelicia Lee
- TreasurerElizabeth Mance
- Membership..... Karen Brown
- Field Trips Tim Hardin
- Education.....Kate Hellgren
- Birding Class..... Gary Gossman
- Banding Lab Jonathan Varol
- FestivalsEric Amundson
- Conservation.....Bob Simons
- Editor/Ads Karen Brown
- AAS Website..... AlachuaAudubon.org
- Facebook.. facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/
- Instagram..... @alachuaaudubon
- Contact us at contact@AlachuaAudubon.org

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 the sustainable use of natural resources.

Submissions to **The Crane** are welcomed. Deadline for the Nov – Dec issue: October 15th. For advertising information, contact the editor at Contact@AlachuaAudubon.org

Annual subscription to **The Crane** is included in National Audubon and/or Alachua Audubon membership.

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.

Alachua Audubon offers all our neighbors respect, inclusion, and opportunities to participate and be heard in our organization. Please read the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement on our website [here](#). Comments and suggestions are welcomed.