

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lachua Audubon closed out the 2024/2025 fiscal year with a celebratory spring potluck dinner party at the Mill Pond Clubhouse.

Several board members are stepping down, and we are extremely grateful for the time, energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm they provided to AAS. We extend our deep gratitude to Katie Sieving, Adam Zions, Kate Hellgren, Jose-Miguel Ponciano, and Elizabeth Mance for their selfless contributions to conservation, environmental education, and overhead activities, all important aspects of AAS.

I am pleased to announce that three new board members will be joining the AAS leadership – Maggie Paxson, Christine Zamora, and Eli Redstone. Maggie has been an active member of the local birding scene for many years and a devoted AAS volunteer, having led many AAS field trips. She was one of the founding leaders of the Gaines-ville High School Birding Club, and she completed a state-wide big year in 2024. In her new role with AAS, Maggie will serve as the AAS liaison with the UF GREBE Audubon Campus Chapter, and she will organize the local chapter of the statewide Young Birders Club. And being the awesome leader and teacher that she is, Maggie will continue to lead bird walks for AAS.

Christine Zamora has a background in Wildlife Ecology and is an Environmental Manager with the Florida Department of Agriculture – Division of Plant Industry. She will apply her science knowledge to our conservation committee. Over the course of a year, many conservation-related items arise. We need scientific-minded folks to represent AAS by engaging and often responding to those conservation topics. Christine will also assist with the Purple Martin nesting program and continue to lead several AAS-sponsored field trips.

Eli Redstone recently retired from the Navy after a 22-year career and moved to Gainesville. As a conservation-ist, he is excited to offer his leadership, public speaking skills, and passion for conservation to the AAS organization. Eli recently attended AAS's spring potluck party, and when we announced a need for someone to represent AAS and speak out against a proposed development at a county planning meeting the very next evening, Eli readily volunteered. We were grateful for his willingness to assist and even more grateful for his desire to continue his conservation advocacy as a representative of AAS.

AAS will be convening the annual June planning meeting where we will map out the new fiscal year's activities, initiatives, and budgets. Rest assured we will continue to offer 100+ field trips annually, stay engaged with many

existing educational and conservation projects, and remain a responsive and responsible community conservation partner.

Alachua Audubon is an all-volunteer organization. Your membership and contributions help us to both continue and expand our work of providing education and outreach about birds and birding and to support local conservation efforts. Read more about what we do here. You may join or donate here.

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FIELD TRIPS

UF "Hague" Dairy, Saturday, May 10, 8am - 11 am

Meet AAS board member Renee Slaw for a group-led field trip at the UF "Hague" Dairy. We will meet in the grassy parking area near the classroom on the western side of the complex (exact location via <u>Google Maps</u>) with a sign reading "Classroom parking," right across from the large painted sign showing a gator milking a cow.

We will focus on observing migrant shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, and others) and lingering/late migrant songbirds along with all the typical openhabitat birds found at the dairy.

If you've never been to the UF Dairy farm, be prepared to see cows, barns, birds. We will visit the lagoon, loved by shorebirds, where waste from the cows is held until it is sprayed on crops. Species seen in May include a variety of sandpipers and grassland birds, lingering migratory birds and more.

As always, trip participants are asked to respect and defer to the workers and cows in an effort to maintain our amicable relationship with the dairy staff.

After Hague there will be an option to continue to Cellon Creek.

<u>Difficulty: 2</u> but variable based on rain, some uneven terrain, potential for extreme heat and sun exposure since there are no shade trees. There are good paths throughout. Since this is an active farm, there can be strong smells in some areas.

Night Walk with Tim Hardin Saturday, May 17, 6:00 – 9:00pm

Join trip leader Tim Hardin for an evening birding experience at Eric and Sherri Amundson's property at 1660 SE. 32nd Pl. 32641. Turn onto SE 32nd Place off SE 15th Street (across from the first Boulware Springs entrance). Park in front of the Gate House and along 32nd Pl.

Eric and Sherri Amundson have lived on 20 acres of sandhill/longleaf pine ecosystem since 1988. Their eastern border is shared with their neighbors on Flamingo Hammock. They are part of a group of landowners who maintain their properties and manage the longleaf pine ecosystem using controlled burns and protection of endemic plants and animals. Attendees will hopefully see the special species available in this

space, including Chuck-will's-widow and owls.

Tim is also excited to teach everyone about Nocturnal Flight Calls (NFCs) and how to put that knowledge to use immediately! Many birds migrate at night, flying in groups and vocalizing to communicate. These vocalizations are different than birds' day-time vocalizations – often shorter and high pitched – and are known as Nocturnal Flight Calls. Learn more about night migration and calls from Manomet Conservation Sciences.

June 2024

The Super Bowl of birding occurs in Alachua County each summer with the eagerly awaited June Challenge, described as "a friendly competition designed to keep us birding through the summer heat while non-birders retreat indoors and miss all the fun." The aim is to see as many bird species as possible within the boundaries of the county between June 1st and June 30th. Read more from Rex Rowan here.

The June Challenge Kickoff. Sunday, June 1, 6 am – 11:30 am

Meet Rex Rowan in the parking corral of Longleaf Flatwoods Reserve (on CR-325 2.3 miles south of SR-20) to kick off our annual summertime birding contest, The June Challenge. We'll try to see Chuck-will's -widow, Common Nighthawk, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow at Longleaf (your chances for Chuck-will's-widow are better if you get there at 5:45). Next we'll go to Windsor to scope Newnans Lake for Bald Eagles and Laughing Gulls, and we'll try to lure a Prothonotary Warbler out of the adjoining swamp. If time allows, and it's not too hot, we may check out La Chua Trail (\$4 per vehicle entry fee) for Snail Kite, Indigo Bunting, and Blue Grosbeak. Our last stop will be Sweetwater Wetlands Park (\$5 per vehicle entry fee, payable on smartphone app) to search for Limpkin, King Rail, Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule, and, if we're very lucky, Grayheaded Swamphen. We'll be done by lunchtime with 40 or 50 species on our June Challenge lists. Difficulty: depends on your level of participation. It will be hot and humid. There will be opportunities to leave earlier or stay longer.

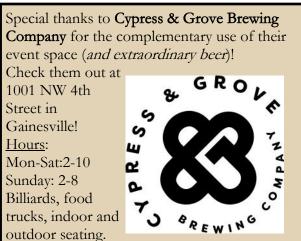
EVENING PROGRAMS

The Ups and Downs of Setting up an Osprey Camera on UF's Campus with Mark Hostetler Thursday, May 22nd, 6:45 – 8:15 pm at Cypress and Grove Brewing, 1001 NW 4th St, Gainesville

So you probably have seen an online wildlife webcam ... How easy (or hard) is it to install and maintain? Professor Mark Hostetler will talk about the ups and downs of installing and maintaining such a camera. Currently, there is a camera installed on an osprey nest on the University of Florida campus. Visit the Osprey Webcam site here. This camera has existed (on and off) since 2017 (with financial support from Alachua Audubon). Viewers log on from around the world to see how this pair of ospreys raise their chicks. It is nature, so lots of drama and cute moments are seen. Dr. Hostetler will talk about the ospreys and the (sometimes) hilarious, behind—the—scenes experiences of maintaining a wildlife webcam.

Mark Hostetler is a professor and Extension specialist with the UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation.





John Hintermister High School Scholarship Awarded

Alachua Audubon is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2025 John Hintermister High School Scholarship is Royal Kulick, a senior at Eastside High School in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Royal is passionate about insects and taught herself pinning and preservation techniques to start her own personal collection at the age of 8. Between the ages of 9-12, she participated in selective summer camps at the Archbold Biological Station and the University of Florida's Bug



Camp to broaden her skills. For the IB program, Royal completed an Internal Assessment paper on light pollution's effect on species diversity and wrote her Extended Essay research paper on entomophagy's role in solving world hunger. Royal was selected to be part of the Florida State Collection of Arthropod's Young Scholars program. In this internship, she is working on a project at the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station uncovering new species and select fauna of the area. Royal plans to attend FSU to study environmental science and to eventually become an environmental lawyer. She states that she is enamored by the beauty of nature and that it inspires her to want to make a change in its current state.

To learn more about charter member John Hintermister, visit our webpage here.

Summary of 2025 Spring Loon Migration over Alachua and Marion County

The 2025 spring migration of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) over the north-central Florida peninsula in Alachua County (and marginally into northern Marion County) was monitored from seven stations from 15 March to 16 April. The stations are oriented north to south, more or less perpendicular to the path the loons take on their flight from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic

Ocean. The stations are spaced at least 3 miles apart to avoid double counting.

Overall, we had 1437 loons, about 2/3 our average number from 2020 to 2024. What really stands out is that in those five previous years, the seasonal totals were remarkable steady, varying between 2064 and 2195 loons, so this year is quite an aberration. In addition, the loons flew late in 2025: the median date of passage was 3 April. The overall median date (from 2020-2024) is 30 March.

One of the most conspicuous differences from past

years was the paucity of loons at the southern stations. In years past, the south Micanopy station, manned by Scott Robinson, has had the second-largest number of loons

Table 2. Loon Numbers by Site							
SITE	2025	AVE 2020-24	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Site 1a-Marj Hoy	15	69	59	79	X	X	X
Site 1b-S Micanopy	80	445	578	513	236	443	454
Site 2 Barr Hammock	139	220	278	358	144	77	241
Site 3 441 Overlook	52	208	125	45 0	92	194	179
Site 4 Fred Cone Park	469	329	381	287	377	366	233
Site 5 Airport	337	458	231	272	825	547	417
Site 6 -Walmart	143	174	80	94	22	245	428
Other	181	331	386	159	418	453	238
Total	1416	2233	2118	2212	2114	2325	2190

Ave (2020-2024)

Table 1. Total Loons by Year

Year

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

on average

(Table 2). In 2025, loon numbers were only about 20% of the usual passage at that station, even though effort was only slightly less.

We had 26 different observers in 2025 that volunteered to count loons in this citizen science project. In total they filled 116 of the 224 slots available (52%), with only one day lost to rain. Coverage was greater during what is usually the peak season between 18 March and 10 April (64%). The smaller total number of loons counted in 2025 did not result from a decrease in effort (Table 3). Correcting for effort, the number of loons per station per day in 2025 (10.89) was also the lowest of the five years. The low rate in 2020, the initial year of the citizen science project, likely resulted from having some sta-

Table 3. Effort by Year					
		Total	Loons/Sta/		
Year	Total #Loons	Stations	Day		
2020	2188	196	11.16		
2021	2321	122	19.02		
2022	2286	92	24.85		
2023	2187	126	17.36		
2024	2093	87	24.06		
Ave (2021-2024)		106.8	21.32		
2025	1263	116	10.89		

Total #Loons

2188

2321

2286

2187

2093

2215

1263

Median Date

2-Ap:

2-Apr

29-Mat

29-Mat

30-Mat

30-Mat

3-Ap

tions at the periphery of the migratory pathway and, also, from having many beginners. The loon counters in the years following that first year tended to be more experienced. Omitting that first year, the average number of loons/station/day was 21.3 from 2021-2024, almost twice the rate in 2025.

As most readers know, the loons tend to travel in groups. In 2025, about 15.5% of the loons flew solo, and 51.2% flew in groups of five or greater (Table 4). The average group size, including solo birds, was 3.04 loons/group (Table 5). The largest group was 26 birds recorded on March 20th at Barr Hammock by Scott Burgard. In previous years we experienced similar numbers of groups, but the groups averaged quite a bit larger. The one-third of the reduction of loons migrating over Alachua County in 2025 can be attributed to smaller group size.

One possible cause of smaller group size is mortality from the avian flu (H4N1) outbreak this winter in North

America. Although loons have not been listed as being particularly hard hit by avian flu, water birds, particularly ducks, are listed as being strongly hit by avian flu. Because loons share a similar distribution and ecology to many sea and bay ducks (*Aythya, Melanitta, Clangula, Mergus, Somateria*), they may also be vulnerable to avian flu. Data from Common Loons with satellite transmitters has shown that those birds winter-

Table 4. Group Size Distribution				
Year		Group Size		
				Largest
	1	2+	5+	group
2020	227 (10.9%)	1851 (89.1%)	1282 (61.6%)	32
2021	200 (9.3%)	1940 (90.7%)	1427 (66.7%)	69
2022	102 (4.6%)	2093 (95.5%)	1720 (78.6%)	43
2023	169 (7.8%)	1988 (92.2%)	1595 (73.9%)	108
2024	115 (5.6%)	1949 (94.45)	1543 (74.8)	53
2025	171 (12.6%)	1176 (87.3%)	690 (51.2%)	26

Table 5. Average Group Size

ing in the Gulf of Mexico often are up to 100 miles offshore, decreasing the possibility that victims of avian flu would be discovered. I am currently checking with wildlife rehabilitation clinics to see if Common Loon strandings were up this winter and spring. In addition, lakes in Canada are regularly surveyed for breeding numbers, so a decline in the wintering population on the Gulf of Mexico would likely be reflected on their breeding grounds.

Year	S	#Groups	AVE
2020	2078	587	3.54
2021	2140	542	3.95
2022	2195	395	5.56
2023	2156	427	5.05
2024	2064	404	5.11
Total	10633	2355	
AVE (2020-24)	2126.6	471	4.52

#Loon

Andy Kratter, Florida Museum of Natural History

AAS Conservation Action

Letter sent to the Suwannee River Water Management District in opposition to surplusing conservation land.

The Board of Directors of the Alachua Audubon Society, on behalf of our 700+ members, is opposed to declaring the Ellaville tract of Twin Rivers State Park to be surplus land. This tract has been managed for over 30 years as conservation land, providing critical habitat for Swallow-tailed Kites, Southeastern American Kestrels, gopher tortoises, gopher frogs, Eastern indigo snake, Florida pine snake, Sherman's fox squirrel, Florida black bear and Eastern diamondback rattlesnake. The standard for surplusing land has always been that it is no longer needed for conservation, and this is clearly not the case with this parcel. Thirty years of habitat restoration work by the Florida Forest Service should not be squandered in this manner.

The proposed use of this land as a peanut farm would add to the burden our waters face as it would require fertilizer use, resulting in leaching of nutrients into the watershed and further endangering our springs. Your own website proclaims Water for Nature, Water for People as your motto with a mission statement that the Suwannee River Water Management District manages water and related natural resources in north-central Florida by providing water quality and quantity monitoring, research, regulation, land acquisition and management, and flood protection. Surplusing the Ellaville tract to permit a peanut farm seems counter to your mission.

We urge you to retain this tract of land. Lands appropriate for conservation are disappearing across Florida at a rapid pace. We need to preserve tracts like this to support the vanishing wildlife of Florida and to maintain the quality of our drinking water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Casella AAS Conservation Committee

Editor's note: Surplusing conservation land in Florida refers to removing established conservation land from state ownership. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is the central repository for Florida's conservation lands.

AAS Field Trip to Coastal Texas

Seven adventurous birders journeyed to the upper coast of Texas for the first AAS-sponsored, out-of-state field trip in over a decade. The primary destination was High Island, Texas, an area renowned for attracting incoming spring migrants after they make their harrowing trans-Gulf crossing. (For those who have watched the famous Big Year movie, the scene of a fall-out was based on a High Island fall-out.)

As hoped for, we saw many! migrating songbirds that were clad in their most stunningly colorful breeding

plumage. Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Gray Catbirds, thrushes, and 18 species of warblers were tallied during our four and a half days of birding the upper coast of Texas. Did we have a fall-out? Not exactly, but almost when a particularly strong line of showers crossed our path during midafternoon as we drove to the famous Sabine Woods. At Sabine, we found birds everywhere in the trees, shrubs, grassy meadow, adjacent marsh, and at the water drips. The most numerous were Gray Catbirds, Orchard Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, Rosebreasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings. Many warbler species were scattered among those colorful songbirds and we were delighted to discover Hooded, Prothonotary, Tennessee, Worm-eating, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbirds, and other warbler species.



Scarlet Tanager. Photo by Debbie Segal.

Songbirds represented just one group of migrating birds that descend on coastal Texas during spring migration. Bolivar Flats, located just a quick and scenic drive along the coast from High Island, is one of the most renowned



Black Tern. Photo by Debbie Segal.

and important stopover sites for migrating shorebirds. In fact, it is designated a Globally Important Bird Area, the highest designation in the Shorebird Reserve Network. Our afternoon trek along the beach to Bolivar produced an overwhelming number of shorebirds, gulls, terns, and other waterbirds, most in a breeding plumage that we don't typically see with wintering shorebirds in Florida. The most abundant birds observed were American Avocets (1,600), Sanderlings (125), Dunlins (150), Least Terns (125), Black Terns (150), and Royal Terns (200). Just as exciting were the plovers – Black-bellied, Semipalmated, Piping, Wilson's, and Snowy – egrets and herons, gulls, and others. As we strolled back along the beach to our parked van, the day's grand finale hovered over the marsh nearby – a White-tailed Kite.

Shallow flooded rice fields abound in the rural agricultural areas inland from High Island, and April's spring migration corresponds with early planting of these fields. Consequently, these shallow cultivated rice fields attract scores of shorebirds not typically found along the beach habitat at Bolivar Flats. Our group hit the jackpot when renowned Florida birder, Jeff Bouton, invited us to join him to bird at a nearby rice field. Jeff is also the Kowa Optics Manager and he came equipped with not one but four spotting scopes. Jeff picked out among the many yellow-legs, dowitchers, Whimbrels, and other shorebirds, several Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden Plovers, and Wilson's Phalaropes. While birding this rice field, our group was also treated to a couple of Gull-billed Terns, a fly-over Crested Caracara, and several migrating Swainson's Hawks. Later that day at the nearby



Three nestling Barn Owls. Photo by Dottie Dreyer.

over us at the beach; the many water drips in the wooded sanctuaries with nearby bleachers where we could comfortably view and photograph birds as they flew down to the water; the raised boardwalk at Smith Oaks Sanctuary that provided eye-level views of nesting Roseate

Neotropic Cormorant feeding nestlings. Photo by Stephanie Hornbuckle.

Spoonbills, Neotropic Cormorants, and other water birds; close views of a male Cerulean Warbler; numerous Purple Martin colonies located in many front yards throughout High Island, and of course, the ubiquitous Great-tailed Grackles that flew onto almost all of our eBird checklists. Although not avian in nature, we also witnessed a true Texas cattle drive as cowboys herded,

On our final night and final drive back to our lodging, Tonya made a simple request to see and better photograph a White-tailed Kite. That



White-tailed Kites. Photo by Eileen Ahlquist.

request was soon answered when one flew across the road in front of us and landed in an adjacent snag. A second kite joined it, and we marveled at both of these gorgeous birds just a few hundred yards from where we sat in the van. To add to this grand finale was a first year male Orchard Oriole,

chased, and lassoed cows.

Crested Caracaras. Photo by Dottie Dreyer.

projecting his lovely song from the top of a nearby bush. We ended the trip with 145 species, life birds for many participants, and an exciting experience to witness spring migration with so many glorious birds.

trip including a flock of about 50 incoming Eastern Kingbirds that alerted us with their electrical spark-sounding call, likely just arriving after their trans-Gulf crossing; abundant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers perched on many powerlines; a Crested Caracara that flew right

There were many avian highlights during the

Jocelyn Nungary (Anahuac) National Wildlife Refuge, we oohed and ahhed over the cutest birds of the trip – nestling Barn Owls. Also nesting nearby were Cliff and Barn Swallows in

their mud nests.



Photo by Eileen Ahlquist.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

By Debbie Segal

The Wonder of Eagle Watch

I love bird watching and simply connecting with nature. But this year, I was given an opportunity to bring my love of birds to a whole new level. I was accepted as a volunteer with the Eagle Watch Program. I thought it would be exciting, but didn't know the experience was going to be so much more than I could have imagined.

Starting in October (and on through the end of May), I watched two eagles repair and prepare their nest for a family, then transition to laying and incubating eggs. One eagle sat very low in the nest with her head barely visible and stayed that way over a period of weeks. On one visit just after Christmas, the adult was sitting up high in the nest, indicating that the eaglets might have hatched. I couldn't see them yet, but didn't think it would be long. And sure enough, I saw them for the first time on the next visit. I watched



I will not forget this experience, something so important and being part of something larger than myself. I will definitely participate again! I think everyone should experience Eagle Watch at least once. It is something you won't soon forget.

By Stephanie Hornbuckle

Click <u>HERE</u> to learn more about volunteering with the EagleWatch Program or email the EagleWatch Program Manager at eaglewatch@audubon.org

Photos by Stephanie Hornbuckle.



the adults sharing the duty of caring for the eaglets. It was amazing watching them grow bigger each week, from cute little fluff balls to being as large as the adults. Over the next three months, they began stretching and flapping their wings, hopping up and down in the nest, preening, and eventually moving out to sit on nearby limbs. One day, I got to see one of the adults drop a huge fish right into the nest and then perch on a limb above them. They were learning to feed themselves and each other. Finally, about the middle of March, they fledged. It was amazing, watching two of the next generation successfully fledge from the



Introductory Course on Birds and Birding

Alachua Audubon Society continues to partner with Santa Fe College on the Intro to Birds and Birding course that we jointly offer four times a year. In Winter, Spring and twice in the Fall we offer a four-week course consisting of Saturday field trips to local natural environments. Each trip is led by an experienced birder, and we always have one or more field assistants to help provide personalized instruction. The course is limited to a dozen people. Binoculars are required but they do not need to be costly. This is an excellent introduction to the world of birds and no experience is needed!

The course is far more than just "bird watching." Students receive instruction in the use of binoculars to help find and identify birds. We discuss bird biology and behavior along with anatomic adaptations to their environment. There is information about backyard birding, bird feeders and water features.



During the most

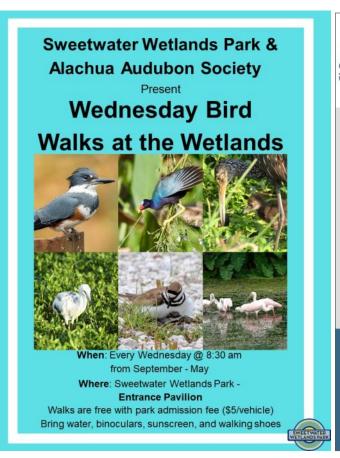
recent Winter and Spring courses, two of our leaders set records for the number of species identified at specific locations. Several people have repeated the course four or five times. There is always something new to see and learn about. Teddy, a ten-year-old birder, was a terrific student in our 2025 Spring course. One of our former participants is now a member of the AAS board of directors. *The possibilities are endless!*

The next class will begin in September. Stay tuned!

By Gary Gossman, Class Coordinator

"Strutting Snowy" and "Osprey Brunch" photos taken by Gary Gossman at Sweetwater Wetlands Park.







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



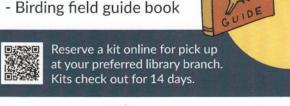




Spot eagles, cranes, and wrens with a Birding Kit created by your library and the Alachua Audubon Society.

Each backpack contains:

- Binoculars
- Local resource guide



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, June 1st, at 5:45 p.m.





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Check out the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society <u>here</u>. Meetings take place on third Wednesdays – September through May (excluding December) – 7:00 pm

at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 4225 NW 34th Street, Gainesville in Phillips Hall. The public is welcome to attend. Join their chapter to attend monthly field trips.





While we do not send frequent requests for donations via email or paper mail, we do appreciate donations any time of the year. We are an all-volunteer organization and all donations are used to fund our many community projects. Donations may be made by individuals, families, on behalf of others, or as bequests. Please use our donate button here, or send a check to AAS, PO Box 140464, Gainesville 32614-0464. For questions, please send an email to

contact@AlachuaAudubon.org.

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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 Ga	\$100		
Swallow-ta	\$250		
Sandhill C	rane		\$500
Whooping	\$1,000		

Sliding scale memberships welcome. Send what you can afford.

DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED. DONATE HERE.

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 <u>Alachua Audubon.org/</u> <u>Join/</u> 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, 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*. To renew your National membership, click here.

Please send any membership questions to Alachua Audubon Membership@gmail.com

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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