



The Crane

Volume 67 Number 5 May–June 2026

FIELD TRIPS

MAY

Lubee Bat Conservancy—Birds and Bats
Members Only—Saturday, May 9, 9:00am – 12:00pm
1309 NW 192nd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609

Join Alachua Audubon Society for a members only trip to the Lubee Bat Conservancy for a morning of birds and bats! **Advanced registration and fee required.** Lubee Bat Conservancy is a local nonprofit dedicated to saving bats and their habitats through conservation, research and education. The morning will start with a birding walk around the Lubee grounds. Old cattle fields surrounded by oak hammock make this property a lovely spot for perching birds like loggerhead shrike, American kestrel and flycatchers. After our bird walk, we will join the Lubee Bat Conservancy staff for a bat tour! We will learn about Lubee's conservation efforts from their incredible bat ambassadors.

Bird walk starts at 9AM. Bat Tour starts at 11AM. This event is for Alachua Audubon members or National Audubon members residing in Alachua County. Children may sign up with parents or a guardian. Join Alachua Audubon Society [here](#). If you are unsure of your membership status, email Karen Brown [here](#). Cost per person is \$25 for each person (adult and child) — this supports Lubee's ongoing conservation work and directly supports the daily husbandry and veterinary care for their resident bats. Sign up [here](#).

Meet the Purple Martins of Orange Lake Overlook
Sunday, May 10, 9:00 – 11:00am. Marjorie A. Hoy
Memorial Park at Orange Lake Overlook
19865 US-441, Micanopy

Alachua Audubon has provided Purple Martins nesting arrays at multiple locations and all have been wildly successful. On this trip, we will talk about Purple Martin biology and meet the birds up close. We will participate in a colony nest check to count eggs and hatchlings as part of the data gathering for the 2026 nesting period. Your hosts will be Rick Williams, Winnie Lante, and Chris Zamora. This trip highlights a species that depends significantly on human intervention for successful nesting. For those interested, we can also explore the trails to see other species. More information about this 155-acre ACT preserve can be found [here](#).

**Bird Ramble—Sandy (East) Trail from
Boulware Springs Park**
Thursday, May 14th, 8:30—10:30 am.

Park at Boulware Springs (the first turn off SE 15th Street marked Gainesville Hawthorne Trailhead Parking; not the second entrance with the waterworks). We'll meet there at 8:30 and take the paved Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail north for about 1/4 mile to the East Trailhead. We will take the Sandy Trail and it is sandy for a bit, but then it turns into a meandering

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path through beautiful woods, a sinkhole pond, and Sweetwater Branch Creek. The loop is just over 1 mile so the total walk will be about 1.5 miles.

Blues Creek Ravine

Saturday, May 16, 8:00am - 11:00 am
6710 NW 69th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32653

Join trip leader Patrick Marr on a birding trip to Blues Creek Ravine Preserve. We'll travel about 1.6 miles through the Preserve's unique upland Florida habitat. We plan to look for forest specialists and late migrants, including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Hooded Warbler, and Yellow-throated Vireo.

Blues Creek is a 160-acre preserve with steeply incised stream banks and unique seepage slopes. The dirt trail has exposed roots. The steepest grade is 4%, and total elevation gain will be about 100'. Learn more [here](#).

Young Birders Club—La Chua Trail

Saturday, May 23, 8:30—10 am
4270 SE 15th Street, Gainesville

Details to be announced in AAS website calendar.

The Gainesville YBC is open to students aged 9-18, but younger siblings are welcome with parental supervision. Students should wear closed-toe shoes and sunscreen and bring water for the walk. You may also wish to use bug repellent. Loaner binoculars are available.

Questions? Email gnyouthbirding@gmail.com

Crosby Sanctuary, Orange Park, FL

Sunday, May 24, 8:00 am.

This will be a joint trip between Duval Audubon Society and Alachua Audubon Society. Our trip leader will be Jessica Dyszel. Crosby Sanctuary is a 510-acre preserve along the Ortega River and is owned by Duval Audubon Society. Habitats include cypress swamp, herbaceous marsh, pine flatwoods, and live oak hammocks. 158 bird species, and other wildlife, have been documented at this property. This is a unique opportunity as Crosby is a limited access nature preserve that is not often open to the public. Target birds are Prothonotary Warblers and Yellow-crowned Night Herons which nest here in the spring. A breeding pair of Short-tailed Hawks are also possi-

ble. Participants can stay after the event to bird other areas of Clay County such as Black Creek Park, Camp Chowenwaw, or "The Rookery" where historically Yellow-Breasted Chats were breeding.

Accessibility: The main trail is less than one mile. It has many cypress knees that present tripping hazards and can become flooded with heavy rains. The back trails go through pine flatwoods and are 2-3 miles. Our group will decide if we want to take the back trails on the day of the event. For those who want to walk less, there is a picnic table at the main entrance to watch the feeders and search the skies for hawks. This area is not wheelchair accessible. There is a composting toilet on the property. Bug spray is a MUST. This is a cypress swamp; expect mosquitoes and biting flies. **Directions:** from Gainesville, take State Rd 21 (Blanding Blvd) about 20 minutes past Middleburg. Turn left at the Bellair intersection which becomes Aquarius Concourse. There is a bathroom at the Gate gas station across from the Bellair intersection. Red Owl Coffee is en route for coffee.

JUNE

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 about the June Challenge [here](#).

The June Challenge Kickoff!

Monday, June 1, 5:30 am – 12:00 pm.

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 5:30). Next we'll go to Windsor to scope Newnans Lake for Bald Eagles, Laughing Gulls, and Prothonotary Warblers. If time allows, and it's not too hot, we may check out La Chua Trail (\$4 per vehicle entry fee) for 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, Gray-headed Swamphen. We'll be done by lunchtime with 40-50 species on our lists.

Difficulty: depends on your level of participation. It will be hot and humid. There will be opportunities to leave earlier or stay longer.

Burrowing Owls at Watermelon Pond
Saturday, June 7th, 7:00—10:00 am

Meet at the county gate on SW 250th St to be guided to the viewing area (typically not publicly accessible). See the AAS website calendar for directions. The surrounding area is good for birds such as Orchard Oriole, Eastern Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Common Nighthawk, Northern Bobwhite, Bachman's Sparrow and, sometimes, Eastern Kingbird.

Boulware Springs Trailhead
Sunday, June 14th, at 8:30 - 10:30 am
First parking lot off SE 15th St from downtown GNV

Join Christine Zamora for a birdability site review. What is Birdability? See Christine's article in the March-April 2026 issue on page 8 [here](#). Meet Christine at the parking lot. Boulware Springs is a beautiful blend of nature and history. We'll wander through pine and oak trees and shrubby habitats that attract sparrows, bobwhite, and a variety of woodland birds. We will be learning how to complete a birdability site review.

Trail Conditions: The Gainesville Hawthorne State Trail is a paved multi-use recreational trail; trails off the pavement are flat and well-maintained. Distance 1.5 miles.

NOTE: Please see the AAS website calendar, our Facebook [page](#) or [Instagram](#) for final details on all field trips. Additional field trips may also be added.

EVENING PROGRAMS

When Nature Needs Help: Understanding Wildlife Rehabilitation
by Shawn McMahon
Thursday, May 21st, 6:45 – 8:00 pm at Cypress & Grove Brewing,
1001 NW 4th Street, Gainesville

Every year, thousands of wild animals are injured due to natural causes and human-related impacts. In this talk, Shawn McMahon, a Certified Veterinary Technician with UF's Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Service, will explore what wildlife rehabilitation is and how it helps give injured animals a second chance at life in the wild. You'll learn what to do (and what *not* to do) if you encounter an injured animal, including when intervention is necessary and when it's best to leave wildlife alone. We'll also discuss important safety considerations to protect both you and the animal. He will also share successful rehabilitation cases and how the UF zoological medicine program collaborates with veterinary specialists from areas like ophthalmology and integrative medicine to provide gold-standard care to native Florida wildlife.

Beasts and Birds: A Trip to Zambia
by Warren Nielsen

Thursday, June 18th, 6:45 – 8:00 pm at Cypress & Grove Brewing, 1001 NW 4th Street, Gainesville

Description will be provided mid-May. Please see the AAS website calendar, our Facebook [page](#) or [Instagram](#) for updates.



President's Message

Alachua Audubon members packed the Mill Pond Clubhouse as we closed out the 2025/2026 fiscal year with a spring potluck membership meeting. The event was filled with celebrations, joyful conversations, and delicious food.

Two members have retired from the board and we are extremely grateful for the time, energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm they provided to the AAS organization. We send our deepest gratitude to Gary Gossman and Renee Slaw for their selfless contributions to the Santa Fe birding classes, field trip committee, social media, and various administrative duties, which are all important aspects of AAS.

I am pleased to announce that three new board members have joined the AAS leadership – Shawn McMahan, Jon Graham, and Will Sexton.

Shawn is now an integral member of the field trip committee and social media where he helps to organize and advertise weekend field trips. Shawn has big ambitions for our field trips and has embarked on the early planning of an AAS-sponsored international trip to Guatemala that is slated for March 2027.

Jon Graham brings extensive management experience to the AAS organization and is organizing the Santa Fe birding classes. Additionally, he will be assisting with AAS's attendance at festivals, the EagleWatch program, and finance and proposals.

Like Shawn, Will Salmon has become a highly involved member of the AAS field trip committee and social media. Additionally, he has assisted with local conservation issues related to proposed developments. Unfortunately, after a few months on the AAS board, Will is relocating to Pennsylvania for professional reasons. This will be a big loss for AAS but surely Will is likely to apply his energy and skills to a new bird conservation organization soon after his move.

AAS celebrated two accomplishments at the spring potluck event. First, we announced that AAS is partnering with Alachua County Environmental Protection Department to dedicate and re-name the Hammock Loop Trail at Turkey Creek Preserve to the *Bob Simons Trail*. Construction of an overlook platform and trail signage are underway. Signage will consist of eight or nine small, single-topic signs along the two-mile *Bob Simons Trail*, as well as a kiosk display at the overlook site. Bob Simons was the force behind many huge environmental accomplishments during his 52 years on the AAS board, and he will now be recognized for the environmental hero that he was. Watch for a ribbon-cutting event this summer.

Alachua County FOREVER

Prescribed Fire

Bob Simons was one of the pioneering advocates for using prescribed fire during the growing season to improve the ecological health of longleaf pine forests and other fire-adapted communities.

Alachua County FOREVER

Santa Fe River

An Outstanding Florida Water

The Santa Fe River watershed, which includes Turkey Creek Preserve, is better protected thanks to Bob Simons's efforts in lobbying State Legislators to designate the Santa Fe River as an Outstanding Florida Water.

Continued on next page



Left to right: Debbie Segal, President; Anne Casella, Treasurer; and Danielle Zukowski, Board Member



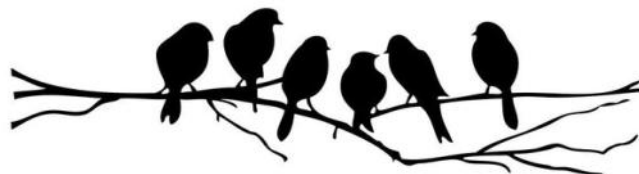
Debbie Segal accepts the National Audubon Society's Callison Award from Kristen Kosik of Audubon Florida.

The final celebration of the evening was spearheaded (and kept secret from me) by my awesome Board of Directors, where they celebrated my National Audubon Society Callison Award (*editor's note: please see page 5 of the [March-April 2026 issue](#) for more about this prestigious national award*). They presented me with an exquisite hand-crafted mosaic of Purple Martins. And Kristen Kosik, Chapters Conservation Manager with Audubon Florida and the person who nominated me for this award, presented me with a lovely, framed photograph of a kestrel. I am grateful beyond words for this recognition, and attribute our numerous accomplishments to the many awesome board members I have had the pleasure of serving with during my nine-year tenure as President of Alachua Audubon.

AAS soon 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 education and conservation projects, and remain a responsive and responsible community conservation partner.

Lastly, thank you all for being members of Alachua Audubon. Your membership not only provides needed financial support, but our robust numbers carry weight when we speak on behalf of conservation issues. *You are appreciated!*

Debbie Segal



Florida Scrub-Jays in Alachua County?

In April 1981, an intrepid graduate student named Jeffrey Cox found some of the last surviving Florida Scrub-Jays in Alachua County in turkey oak scrub just east of what is now the Levy County Line Landfill. During 1980 – 1981, Cox also searched unsuccessfully for the species in scrub and scrubby flatwoods in the Cross Creek area. Perhaps the four Florida Scrub-Jays that were collected near Cross Creek by Oliver Austin for the Florida Museum of Natural History in [January 1963](#) took some of the wind out of that dwindling population.

Now that I have got your attention with that teaser, consider that the Ocala National Forest sits only 10 miles southeast of the Alachua County line. With more than 1,500 family groups in Marion, Lake, and Putnam counties, the Ocala National Forest has [the largest remaining Florida Scrub-Jay population](#). Our research team has

documented numerous dispersals from the forest to other nearby conservation lands during the past decade. Sites where Florida Scrub-Jays had been extirpated, such as Etoniah Creek State Forest and Dunns Creek State Park, have recently been recolonized. The Ocala National Forest now seems to be a source population driving the north-central Florida landscape.

Wandering scrub-jays ostensibly seeking to disperse to suitable habitat also have been observed in unusual places in north-central Florida during the past few years. For example, in [March 2024](#), our FWC kestrel research team came across a single Florida Scrub-Jay in our long-term study area south of Williston (Levy County); the bird occupied a patch of scrubby flatwoods surrounded by pastures for several months. Other intriguing recent sightings in the region include eBird records from Reddick and Ocala (Marion County) and Green Cove Springs (Clay County).



Today, nearly a thousand acres of scrub and scrubby flatwoods still exist in Alachua County in scattered patches on public and private lands, with an extensive but unknown amount of forest on soil types that once supported scrub. Restoring enough contiguous habitat in our county to support a small population of Florida Scrub-Jays seems unlikely. However, future decisions about land management goals cannot be predicted with certainty. As climate has changed, several North American bird species are showing northward range expansions, which might make potential habitat in northern peninsular Florida more important to the species in the future.

At minimum, it seems reasonable to think that a wandering individual might someday show up on the Rare Bird Alert. May the Florida Scrub-Jay continue to be a highly coveted addition to our Alachua County life lists!



Photos courtesy of FWC.

By Karl Miller

Alachua Audubon Visits Ft. DeSoto

A group of adventurous AAS members and guests birded the lovely Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County during the peak of spring migration. Ft. DeSoto is a renowned magnet for migrating birds because it sits along the Gulf Coast's main flyway where millions of birds funnel north after wintering in the tropics. Ft. DeSoto is often the first solid ground that these migrating songbirds spot after an exhausting flight over open water. The park's mix of habitats—beaches, mangroves, tidal flats, and woodlands—offers food, shelter, and rest for weary migrants.

Our intrepid birding group met early on April 19th at East Beach and first searched the tropical trees along the beach and surrounding the old ranger's house. Several warblers were spotted – Blackpoll, Worm-eating, Northern Parula, and Palm. We also got our first looks at maritime birds – Willets, Black-bellied Plovers, American Oystercatchers, and others. Nanday Parakeets squawked loudly as they winged from tree to tree, while Ospreys called from their nesting snag.

Both Grooved-bill and Smooth-billed Anis have wintered at Ft. DeSoto and both rarities were high on our target list. We searched the woods and brush around the kayak rental location where they had been frequently spotted and came up empty on the anis but instead found Prairie Warblers, a Magnificent Frigatebird, and other species.

Our next stop, and one of the most exciting of the day, was the far north point at North Beach where many migrating shorebirds gather, and local breeders like Least and Royal Terns, Black Skimmers, Snowy Plovers, and Laughing Gulls gather to nest. To reach the north point, we waded barefoot through knee-deep water to reach the large and diverse flock of birds. We scanned the flock and called out the newly discovered species – Hudsonian Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit,



Hudsonian Whimbrel



Gray Kingbird

American Avocet, Red Knot, Piping Plover, Western Sandpiper, Reddish Egret, and others. Many of these birds were sporting partial or complete breeding plumage that made their appearance even more exciting. And several participants excitedly called out their new life birds.

After wading back through the tidal slough and rinsing off our sandy feet, we picnicked under the nearby oak trees. Gray Kingbirds were flycatching from the oaks in the picnic area at North Beach and offered excellent opportunities to view and photograph. Our next stop was Arrowhead Trail in search of nesting Great Horned Owls. We spotted one adult owl, as well as two male Cape Mays and a Black-and-White Warbler.



Aurora Hardin playing in the water behind a Reddish Egret



Smooth-billed Ani (left) and Groove-billed Ani (right)

Our final stop of the day was a return to the kayak rental spot for another try at the anis. After only about 10 minutes of searching, one grackle-sized, all-black bird flew over to a nearby shrubby stand of vegetation. Ani! We quickly aimed our binoculars and cameras and confirmed the Grooved-bill Ani. A few minutes later a second ani, the Smooth-billed, joined the first and they both provided clear and extended views for our very fortunate and jubilant group.

A huge thanks to Tonya Becker for organizing this out-of-town trip, Tim Hardin for leading the group, Alex Tomberlin and Blake Beckett for sharing the checklists, and Aurora Hardin for providing constant, enjoyable entertainment.

By Debbie Segal



A view of Fort DeSoto Park courtesy of the park website [here](#).

Gainesville is for the (migrating) birds, says city proclamation

On Thursday, April 2nd, Gainesville mayor Harvey Ward issued an official city proclamation to welcome the thousands of visitors the city will see this month, but most residents won't notice—migrating birds.

The proclamation, which proclaims the period from March 15 through April 15 to be Spring Migration Season in Gainesville, was the brainchild of City Commissioner (and longtime birder) Bryan Eastman.

"I've been trying to bring forward more proclamations that highlight things that make Gainesville feel unique, and spring migration is one of those things that's happening all around us that people don't always notice," he said. "The idea that all these colorful birds are passing through right now in bright breeding plumage is just a cool, joyful thing to point out for people that don't know about it."

March and April are when birds migrating from their wintering grounds in South and Central America and the Caribbean pass through Gainesville on the way to their breeding territories in the northern U.S. and Canada. For avid birders, spring and fall migration are prime opportunities to spot colorful species they'd otherwise have to travel to see.

Alachua Audubon Society President Debbie Segal accepted the proclamation on behalf of the chapter and thanked Ward and the City Commission for supporting birds and their welfare. She pointed to the city's construction of Sweetwater Wetlands Park as [one of the city's success stories](#).

Opened in 2015, the park has become not only a popular spot for locals to enjoy nature and wildlife, but one of the top destinations for birdwatchers across the state. Bird-friendly environments such as Sweetwater Wetlands Park, Segal said, thus benefit the local economy through ecotourism.

Besides Sweetwater Wetlands Park, favorite spots to look for migrating birds in the Gainesville area include Loblolly Woods, Palm Point Park, and San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park—but sharp-eyed observers may be able to find them in trees near their home or work. Among the colorful migrants one may encounter locally are flashy black-and-orange American Redstarts, bright yellow Prairie Warblers and stripy Black-and-white Warblers.

Anyone curious to learn more about resident and migrating birds, where to find them and how to identify them, is welcome to join Alachua Audubon's field trips. Beginners are welcome, and most trips are free and open to the public. In addition, Alachua Audubon runs regular beginning birding classes through Santa Fe College's Community Education program. For more information, visit alachuaaudubon.org.

By Felicia Lee

Reprinted from the Main Street Daily News with permission.



A Palm Warbler, which will be migrating to breeding grounds, sits on a fence at Chapman's Pond. Photo by Seth Johnson, Main Street Daily News.



Indigo Bunting. Photo by Debbie Segal.

City of Gainesville, Florida
Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each spring millions of migratory birds travel thousands of miles along the Atlantic Flyway, bringing flashes of color and song through Gainesville as they journey between their wintering and breeding grounds; and

WHEREAS, Gainesville's birding community and network of parks, forests, and wetlands make places like Palm Point, Sweetwater Wetlands Park, and Loblolly Woods Nature Park among the best birding locations in Florida to observe migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, an observant walker may catch the yellow of a **Prothonotary Warbler**, the blue, green, and red of a **Painted Bunting**, the zebra stripes of a **Black-and-white Warbler**, the shimmering blue of an **Indigo Bunting**, or the red and black streak of a **Scarlet Tanager** as they pause briefly in Gainesville's trees and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, birdwatchers, families, students, and nature lovers throughout Gainesville celebrate this fleeting season by stepping outdoors to listen for birdsong and watch the treetops for passing migrants; and

WHEREAS, as a city known for welcoming travelers, students, artists, and new neighbors from around the world, Gainesville also welcomes the arrival of these seasonal migrants who briefly call our parks, wetlands, and forests home each spring;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Harvey L. Ward**, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim **March 15 - April 15, 2026** as

Spring Migration Season

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to step outside, listen for the songs, and watch for the flashes of red, yellow, blue, and black that mark this remarkable season of migration.

John Hintermister High School Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Grace Kireta, a senior at PK Yonge, for being the recipient of Alachua Audubon's 2026 John Hintermister High School Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes students who have a strong interest in the environment and conservation. Grace is the current President of the Environmental Conservation Organization at PK Yonge. As a four-year member of this organization, Grace has participated in campus clean-ups in collaboration with Keep Alachua County Beautiful, planted trees at Evergreen Cemetery and provided assistance to the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery and Alachua Conservation Trust. With ACT she has helped remove invasive plants, weeded the native plant garden created by Alachua Audubon and assisted with educational events. Grace began high school believing she wanted to be an environmental scientist working in the field. She now hopes to become involved in politics or economics to create incentives for sustainable change. Grace will be attending Wageningen University in the Netherlands next year which has one of the top ranked environmental science programs in the world. Immediately after graduating from college she hopes to join the Peace Corps to experience life across the globe and gain perspectives that will help her to decide how she can most contribute to resolving climate change and climate justice issues. After the Peace Corps she hopes to return to the U.S. to earn a law degree, specializing in environmental law. *Congratulations, Grace!*



Get a life! A life membership in Alachua Audubon, that is

Alachua Audubon recently increased opportunities for obtaining a lifetime membership. There are now three ways to become a life member:

- a single \$1,000 donation at the Whooping Crane membership level,
- two consecutive annual donations of \$500 at the Sandhill Crane level, or
- four consecutive annual donations of \$250 at the Swallow-tailed Kite level.

The multi-year life membership options are intended to encourage more people to join AAS as life members. Your investment in Alachua Audubon also helps us to expand projects that support our mission 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.

To use any of these methods of becoming a life member, please send an email to AlachuaAudubonMembership@gmail.com.

Alachua Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.



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when you can use your
voice for birds!**

Visit fl.audubon.org/advocate to sign up

 Audubon | FLORIDA

Sweetwater Wetlands Park & Aachua 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



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!



Alachua County LIBRARY District

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, May 3rd, at 5:45 pm





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SWEETWATERINN.COM

Special thanks to **Cypress & Grove Brewing Company** for the complementary use of their event space (*and extraordinary beer!*)

Check them out at 1001 NW 4th Street in Gainesville!

Hours:

Mon-Sat: 2-10

Sunday: 2-8

Billiards, food trucks, indoor and outdoor seating.



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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.

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 AlachuaAudubon.org/Join/ where you will be directed to their membership page.

Your introductory membership amount 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 AlachuaAudubonMembership@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](#). The state registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Alachua Audubon Society Board of Directors

Officers:

Debbie Segal, President
Tim Hardin, Vice President
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Felicia Lee, Youth Education, Birds & Brews
Karen Brown, Membership, Editor, Website, Festivals
Tim Hardin, Field Trips, Recruitment
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Eli Redstone, Conservation
Jon Graham, Finance, Proposals, Birding Class

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.

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 May – June issue: April 15th.
For advertising information, contact the editor at Contact@AlachuaAudubon.org