



EAGLE'S VIEW



Lake Region
Audubon
April-June 2005
Volume 15, Issue 2

Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Polk County Environmental Lands Field Trip's

Paul Fellers

On February 26, 2005, 16 of us enjoyed the four plus mile loop trail at Circle B Bar Ranch, southeast of Lakeland. The weather was fine, in the mid- 60's, with a little breeze coming in off Lake Hancock. Since I was last there, much has been done to put the former working ranch back to a more natural area, and many of the invasive plant species have been reduced significantly. Leading the list of birds were: American Bittern, 5 Green Herons, 7 Roseate Spoonbills, 7 Wood Storks, 2 Swallow-tailed Kites (bird of the day and likely the first record for the ranch, and an early record at that), 8 Bald Eagles (2 Mature), 2 male Sharp-shinned Hawks, Purple Gallinule (scope study of a bird that kept touring through low, thick, bare foliage across Banana Creek Canal), 4 Sandhill Cranes, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 200-300 Yellow-rumped Warblers, most flitting about in the Hackberry trees along the berm beside the lake, and a single Black and White Warbler hanging out with them.

March 5th found several of us hiking the two loop trails at Lakeland Highlands Scrub, totaling about 2.8 miles. Some of the keepers, birdwise, were a Brown Pelican fishing in the big phosphate pit near the entrance, female Hooded Merganser in the small

pond in the middle of the xeric lands, mature Bald Eagle, big female Sharp-shinned Hawk, a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, a pair of Northern Flickers (getting difficult to find these days), 2 Blue-headed Vireos, 2 single, very friendly, tagged Florida Scrub Jays, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Brown Thrasher



Green Heron

singing his spring-time song from the top of a tree, plus 2 others at ground level, 2 single Cedar Wax-wings feeding in the tops of Wild Cherry trees, and a pair of Pine Warblers in the (of course) Longleaf Pines. A few early blooming flowers were Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*), Yellow Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), Wild Cherry (just coming into bloom). Wild Blackberry (*Rubus species*), Bachelor-button (*Polygala nana*), Fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), Flag Pawpaw (*Asimina speciosa*), and Blue Toadflax (*Linaria Canadensis*). Butterflies included swallowtails: Eastern

Tiger, Spicebush and Zebra; and Zebra Heliconian.

We owe much to the folks of Polk County who so wisely voted a few years ago to raise taxes enough to purchase endangered lands, and to Gaye Sharpe and committee members who have done such an excellent job.

Bird I. D. Course**Paul Fellers**

A well attended (25 students), 5 session, class primarily for bird identification was recently completed at the nature center. The final session was meant to be mostly a fun time with a pot-luck dinner, the showing of two half-hour videos, one on the Common Loon and the other on Loon Country, and this year a 33 question quiz featuring figurines, pictures, silhouettes, etc. Of course, during the regular sessions there were lots of slides of birds and bird-related slides having to do with migration, songs, longevity, breeding, plumages, etc. In fact, the group went through some 260 slides; students received a plethora of handouts. A students-only field trip to the phosphate mines in southern Polk County on February 5th netted a respectable 84 species. Some of the better records were: Brown Pelican, 6 Black-crowned Night Herons, 11 duck species including 2,000 Green-winged Teal, 25 Gadwall, 8 Canvasbacks, and female Bufflehead (star of the day), 6 Bald Eagles (2 eaglets at a nest), 8 Northern Harriers, 160 American Avocets, 124 Long-billed Dowitchers, 3 Great-horned Owls (1 at nest), 80 American Crows at the Fort Green Mine entrance (highest number ever seen at the mines), 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireo, and female Black and White Warbler. Some of the class members also attended the Lake Region Audubon field trip to Merritt Island NWR on February 12th where we observed a whopping 96 species (write-up elsewhere in this newsletter). My hope is that the students received a solid foundation of birding knowledge, and that appreciation of our delightful feathered friends has been measurably enhanced.

Nature Faire For Kids

Saturday April 2, 2005 - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Fl
863-324-7304

FREE**FREE**

Crafts to make and take home, nature exhibits, butterfly tent, insect exhibit, fossil digs, Air Potato contest, insect bingo, hot dogs and bake sale, and much more. Including;

Woodland Wonders of Joan Waters**Red-letter Birding Day at Merritt Island NWR and Vicinity****Paul Fellers**

A big group of 32 participants enjoyed a super day of birding on Florida's East Coast on February 12, 2005. In checklist order, birds of note were: Red-throated Loon (a rare treat located at Playalinda Beach station #6, just out beyond the breakers and only my 3rd Florida record), 12 Common Loons, 20 Northern Gannets, 45 Roseate Spoonbills (several very close to the Black Point road), 1,500 Northern Pintails, 2 female Bufflehead, Merlin (consuming a small shorebird), 2 Peregrine Falcons (1 soaring overhead at Black Point in the company of a mature Bald Eagle), 15 Marbled Godwits, 45 American Avocets, 12 Red Knots, 8 Western Sandpipers, 250 Dunlin, 30 Short-billed Dowitchers, 150 Black Skimmers, 3 Scrub Jays, 5 Eastern Bluebirds, and Hermit Thrush (in small oak hammock). By the time in the late afternoon when we had finished birding and had gone to early dinner, we had observed a remarkable total of 96 species. Several people logged life birds that day. Dinner, of course, was at the excellent Dixie Crossroads seafood restaurant in Titusville. Reservations allowed us to be seated immediately, soon followed by some delicious fried crab bites complements of Laura Lee Thompson, good friend and restaurant owner. It was a great trip.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30, 2005 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Street Audubon Center

115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Fl
Your chance to buy hard-to-find nursery-grown Florida native plants. Come shop and learn about plants for butterflies and other wildlife while enjoying the 42 acres of Street Audubon Center.

Free Workshop:

9:30 AM Bill Bissett, a landscape architect and owner of The Natives nursery, will show slides and discuss "Gardening with Natives"

100's of easy to grow butterfly and native plants will be available.

Volunteers are Needed to Assist
Contact: Carrie Plair 863-683-8094

Bird Club

So far this year we have enjoyed birding and each other's company on many bird trips. We have a great group and everyone is welcome. We only have a few trips left:

March 17, 2005 River Ranch, Overstreet Landing and Three Lakes WMA

March 31, 2005 Orlando Wet Lands, Christmas FL.

April 7, 2005 Fort DeSoto State Park, St. Petersburg, FL.

So far this year we have seen 158 species. The best ones were the Eared Grebe and Female Bufflehead with Paul Fellers in the mines. We had a better look at a female Bufflehead on Merritt Island. John Duncan found a Sora at Lake Apoka Restoration Area. A few of us did get to see the Brown-headed Nuthatch at the Babcock-Webb WMA. Finding the Whooping Cranes in Lake Wales was pretty exciting too. It was fun to have so many Northern Parulas around us at Kissimmee State Park. We have had thousands of Tree Swallows flying above us and have been greeted by American Robins on practically every trip. It is exciting just to be out and about and you are welcome to join us.

Pizza and Film Night


The pizza is good and the films interesting. Come and join us on the First and Third Tuesday of the month. The film schedule is:

March 15, 2005 The Life of Birds, Vol. 5 The problems of parenthood

April 5, 2005 Gray Whales with Christopher Reeves

April 19, 2005 The Love of Birds, Vol. 1

May 3, 2005 Dolphins with Robin Williams

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Mosaic Phosphate Lands Field Trip**Paul Fellers**

The new year started out on January 8, 2005 with our annual trip (with 29 participants) to the mines of southern Polk County. We logged 86 species including in checklist order: Brown Pelican, 2 American Bitterns, 10 Gadwalls, 3 Bald Eagles (1 at nest), Sharp-shinned Hawk, 14 American Avocets, 6 Western Sandpipers, 1,000 Least Sandpipers, 15 Stilt Sandpipers, 160 Long-billed Dowitchers, 3 Great Horned Owls (1 at nest); and the following all at IMC Peace River Park: 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 4 Blue-headed Vireos, Northern Parula, 2 Yellow-throated Warblers and 2 Black and White Warblers. Prior scouting paid off with quite a smooth run of the various areas. We were fortunate to be able to traverse the hurricane-damaged board walk at the park. Jack-in-the Pulpits were already leafed out in the littoral zone along the boardwalk. Tasty sandwiches, fresh fruit and drinks were provided by Mosaic, and were surely appreciated by the group. I wish to thank Diana Yoemans of Mosaic for all her help in making our trip so successful.

Field Trips**Green Swamp 2.5 mile Wildflower Hike**

March 26, 2005, Saturday, 8:00 AM

Meet at Van Fleet Rails to Trails Trailhead to carpool. Follow brown highway signs on S.R. 33 in Polk City to trailhead. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

Fort DeSoto Warbler Migration

April 16, 2005, Saturday, 7:00 AM.

Meet at Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland, to carpool. Bring lunch; dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City. See up to 100 species, many migrants, some spectacular. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

Special Thanks

To **Dr. David A Brooke** for construction of two nesting boxes for placement at Street Audubon Center. These nesting boxes will be erected for Screech Owl nests.

Bird Club Info and Schedule

Marvel Loftus

MEET: Most Thursdays during November, December, January, February, March, and the first Thursday in April. Bring binoculars, spotting scope, cell phones, walkie talkies, insect repellent, and water. We usually bring a picnic lunch unless otherwise stated.

Always bring a snack. We do some hiking but not long walks. If you are on the Membership list you will receive a telephone contact by the calling committee. This is only a tentative schedule subject to changes when necessary. We notify people either by telephone or e-mail. If you need a ride or can drive please tell your phone caller. They are the one that form the car pools.

MARCH 31, 2005

ORLANDO WETLANDS

Meet at 7:30 AM at McDonalds on Hwy 27 north of I-4 or at the parking lot at Orlando WetLands. From I-4 take toll road 417, Greenway North. Go east on 408, East/West Toll Road to Hwy 50. Go east on Hwy 50 to Christmas. Turn left on Ft. Christmas Road, then east, right turn, on Wheeler Road to the parking lot. Bring Lunch.

APRIL 7, 2005

FORT DESOTO STATE PARK

Meet at 9:00 AM at the Tierra Verde duck ponds that are located just past the business section of Tierra Verde on the right. This is CR 679, the road to the park. Bring Lunch.

This will be a long day.

FOR INFORMATION:

CALL MARVEL LOFTUS -

HOME PHONE 863 324 9657

E-MAIL MARVEL769@AOL.COM

Donations for a Rehabilitation, Flight Cage, to be constructed at Circle B Bar Reserve for Joan Waters, Woodland Wonders, may be sent to:

David Pobjecky

PO Drawer 7323

Winter Haven, Fl 33833

Checks should be made out to

Woodland Wonders, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit enterprise.

Help! Help!! Help!!

Come and join our group of volunteers at the Nature Center. What do you have to do? Nothing, just open up or lock up and BE THERE!! Due to the three hurricanes and other situations, we are shorthanded. If you would like to volunteer for a morning: 9:00am to noon; OR an afternoon: noon to 3:00 pm; please call **Ann Pinner, phone 956-2374**. Helping out once a month would be GREAT!! The Nature Center is a wonderful place to bring a lunch, friends or grandchildren; read a book or just enjoy the peace and quiet.

Come and join us!!



The Saturday Nature Walks with **Earle Roberts** will continue through the end of April. Meet at the Street Audubon Center, 115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Fl on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM.

Water, Wings and Wild Things Polk Environmental Lands Polk Naturefest 2005

April 9, 2005 10:00 AM - 2:00PM

at

Circle B Bar Reserve

Guided walking tours, Landscaping clinics,
Birding and Butterfly watching, Nature
photography and more.

For info: Gaye Sharpe 863-534-7377

US Navy to resume live bombing at the Avon Park Air Force Range

What many of us knew as the Avon Park Bombing Range may soon become just that; a bombing range again. For many years the range was used for simulated bombing only - no ordnance was used only electronics. With the loss of a live bombing range in Puerto Rico, however, Avon Park may get the nod as a live fire practice site. The plans are quite ambitious with both fixed wing and helicopter sorties from both coasts. They would use the range for up to a maximum of 120 days a year. They would practice with strafing, hellfire missiles and live high explosive weapons both day and night.

Environmentally, the problems would come from the new roads and road improvements in the range and the actual impact of the ordnance. Several alternatives have been proposed some better than others with regard to protecting the environment. You can also expect that recreational use of the range will be greatly curtailed. Few of us will argue with a hellfire missile, I'm sure. Watch the local media for more information in the weeks to come.

Charles Geanangel, Winter Haven

Book Donation

On Saturday, Feb 19, 2005 **Paul and Janet Anderson, Dolores Borkowski, Joe Wolf and Herman Moulden** met at the Street Audubon Center and moved boxes of books from the home of Perry D Slocum to the center. Perry D. Slocum is the author of the books, *Birds of North America and How to Photograph Them*. Slocum's son, Peter, donated them to Lake Region Audubon. On March 5th **Jack Molton, Carrie Plaire, Dolores Borkowski and Paul and Janet Anderson** moved the remaining books.

Address changes: mail to Street Audubon Center, 115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, FL 33884, Attention: Lynn Powell, or lpo4448888@aol.com.

Membership Information: Mail to Street Audubon Center, 115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, FL 33884, Attention: Gary McCoy

Find a Birding Pal When You Travel

Almost four years ago spending some time in British Columbia I got the idea for a website, where birdwatchers could find local contacts when they travel.

Today Birdingpal is well established with more than 2000 contacts in 177 countries, US States, Canadian Provinces/Territories and thousands of people use it every day to plan their travel. Not only is the birdwatching more productive, but they also discover new friends and the safety of birding with a local birder is also something to be considered.

Knud Rasmussen <http://birdingpal.org/>

2003-2004 Officers

Steering Committee:

Bill Karnofsky 863.324.5282 brkay@juno.com

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Chuck Geanangel 863.326.5748

hoatzin@tampabay.rr.com

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VP Newsletter: Herman Moulden

hmoulden@peoplepc.com

Treasurer: Bill Karnofsky 863.324.5282

Corresponding Sec: Open

Recording Sec: Liz Purnell 863.324.3181

Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul

Anderson

Board Members: Janet Anderson, Bert & Fran Henry, Evelyn Hoog, Louise Lang, Marvel Loftus, Giland Gina Lucas, Lynn Powell, Earle and Katy Roberts, Ron Butts, Gary McCoy, Herman Moulden, Bob Snow, and Ann Pinner

Mission Statement: Lake Region Audubon Society, a Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies, is dedicated to youth education, conservation, clean air and clean water, preservation of our native flora and fauna, and the promotion of public awareness of the remaining natural beauty of our Florida and our world.

Lake Region Audubon Society
Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884
863.324.7304
www.lakeregion.net

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Injured Birds and Animals, Joan Waters
Call **Joan Waters, 863.967.3298** anytime for bird and animal rescue. Leave a message and she will return your call.
Visit Joan’s website: www.woodlandwonders.org.

Lake Region Audubon has an opening for a Corresponding Secretary. Anyone interested should contact any Board member or Officer listed in this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For New Audubon Members Only - Chapter E25:7XCH

Join the National Audubon Society for the special rate of US \$20. That’s \$15 off the regular membership dues. This 3-way membership includes the Lake Region Audubon newsletter and magazines of Florida and National Audubon. **Make checks payable to The National Audubon Society, and mail with this form to:**

**Attention Membership
Lake Region Audubon Society
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884**



Lake Region
Audubon

Chapter E 25, 7XCH
Audubon Memberships are good gifts.

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Street Address: _____

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