



Street Audubon Center  
115 Lameraux Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

## Animal Rescue at Woodland Wonders Help is needed for a new flight cage

West of Auburndale in what appears to be a normal neighborhood is a very unusual backyard. It has a nice tree canopy and under that canopy are cages contain-

ing animals that are not normal in this setting. This is Woodland Wonders and the animals have been rescued. Most were injured in some manner or were just in very poor health when taken in at Woodland Wonders. These animals will be treated and returned to health when possible, then released back into



Harris Hawk

their natural environment. Joan and Roger Waters do a fantastic job with these animals which range from raccoons to opossums, to great blue herons, eagles, hawks, osprey, squirrels, deer, and many others. Typically about 300 to 350 individual animals are treated each year.

One problem facing Woodland Wonders is the need



Horned Owl

to construct a new flight cage for eagles, hawks and osprey. Federal regulations now require a flight cage 100 feet by 20 feet by 16 feet. Without this cage the birds will have to be transported to Maitland for flight training prior to release back into the wild. This

could be prohibitive and Woodland Wonders could not work with these fabulous birds. Plans are underway to construct the cage and a site has been approved. Funds are needed. Donations may be sent to:

**Woodland Wonders**  
**2110 Betty Ann Drive**  
**Auburndale, FL 33823**

*All donations are tax deductible. A continuing problem is operating funds and supplies. Visit the web site at [www.woodlandwonders.org](http://www.woodlandwonders.org) to see how you may help.*

Polk County and Central Florida wildlife are very fortunate to have Joan and Roger helping them at Woodland Wonders.



Black Vulture

## It's Been a Great Springtime of Birding

There are two birding areas that I gravitate to in springtime, namely, Fort DeSoto County Park on our west coast and the phosphate mines on Mosaic lands primarily in southern Polk County.

Sightings at the coast included; 2 Redhead Ducks, Piping Plover, 250 Royal Terns and Chuck-wills-widow, April 7<sup>th</sup> on a very windy day. However, April 16<sup>th</sup> with Lake Region Audubon was another story, when 98 species were logged. See the write-up for this field trip elsewhere in this newsletter. On April 24<sup>th</sup> with David and Gloria Brooke we sighted 99 species. Of note were 6 Pied-billed Grebes (including 3 downy young on the pond on the old Tierra Verde golf course), White-phase Reddish Egret, 2 Broad-winged Hawks, Solitary Sandpiper, 2 Belted Kingfishers, a very late Tree Swallow, Veery, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, 3 Wood Thrush; 15 Warbler species, best being 4 male Yellow, late Yellow-rumped, 3 male Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted and 2 N. Waterthrush; 8 Summer and 20 Scarlet Tanagers, 8 Rose-breasted and 8

Blue Grosbeaks, and 30 Indigo Buntings. I had a yearning to try to see a Connecticut Warbler, a very late migrant, again after many years of not really trying, so on May 7<sup>th</sup> with Elizabeth Lane and Ron Butts, we spent 12 hours on the quest. We did not have to wait long because at our 2<sup>nd</sup> stop, I observed a gorgeous female about 35 feet away, just east of the Mulberry trees. I backed off and called for Liz and Ron to come. We went back to the locale and when I pushed, the bird jumped up again, but alas, only Liz was able to spot it in the greenery. This was perhaps my 8<sup>th</sup> in Florida for this exciting rare bird. Other good birds that day was a Gull-billed Tern (at North Beach), 9 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Wood Pewee, all the thrushes except Hermit, 20 Red-eyed Vireos, 17 warbler species in addition to the Connecticut, best being Tennessee, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, 4 Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, 40 Blackpoll, and

Kentucky, and several other keepers. A final trip on May 11<sup>th</sup>, chasing a reported Kirtland's Warbler, seen the day before was pretty much a bust, with no Kirtland's, much to my chagrin, and that of the other birders who had also made the trip. I did record a late Sharp-shinned Hawk, Gull-billed Tern, Gray Kingbird, late Swainson's Thrush and very late Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Two recent trips to the Mosaic Phosphate lands with our two happy dogs, Onyx and Lady, were memorable. In checklist order, sightings of note for April 29<sup>th</sup> were: American Bittern, 22 Roseate Spoonbill, 46 Mottled Duck (including 2 broods of 10 young each), 28 Blue-winged Teal, 9 N. Shovelers, American Swallowtail



Black-necked Stilt by Herman

Kite (rare there), a whopping 139 American Avocets in glorious breeding plumage, 7,000 Least Sandpipers, 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, 31 Dunlin (normally a coastal bird), a huge number of Stilt Sandpipers, by a close count of 2,600, 1,284 Long-billed Dowitchers, 45 Least Terns (several nesting near 555 south of Bartow), 9 Eastern

Kingbirds and 180 Bobolinks. On May 6<sup>th</sup> were the greatest number of shorebirds at the mines that I can ever recall, in excess of 20,000 including an estimated 16,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 5,200 Stilt Sandpipers (in gorgeous breeding plumage), and 775 Long-billed Dowitchers. Other birds of note were; 260 American White Pelicans, 28 Roseate Spoonbills, 74 Mottled Ducks, a rare wild Mallard, 27 Blue-winged Teal, 41 Semipalmated Plovers, 90 Black-necked Stilts, 112 American Avocets, 7 White-rumped Sandpipers, 2 Pectoral Sandpipers (rare there), 4 Gull-billed Terns, 4 Black Terns, 14 very late Barn Swallows, and 250 Bobolinks. A Bobcat was the only one in evidence for 12 field trips since Christmas, making me wonder if perhaps the hurricanes had negatively impacted their population. All-in-all it has been a grand spring bird migration to observe!

**Paul Fellers**

## Gold Head Branch

If you are looking for a little different terrain, and a chance to see some birds that we don't see quite so regularly here in Central Florida, you might try Mike Roess Gold Head Branch near Keystone Heights, FL. It is a very nice and fairly quiet Florida State Park.

They offer 14 rustic cabins, over 70 campsites, picnic area, a swimming beach, a small playground and several hiking trails. The property consists of rolling terrain, a spring fed stream and a couple of lakes.

We visited the weekend of May 1. The park has an abundance of woodpeckers (both Red-headed and Red-bellied). Fay saw four Red-headed Woodpeckers in her binoculars at once. The cabin area is a woodpecker haven. You can spot several of either species nearly anytime you look up.

In addition, we found Northern Bobwhite, Brown Thrasher, Great Crested Flycatcher, American Kestrel, lots of Carolina Wrens, Eastern Towhee and several others. The lake in front of the cabins had Mallard and Wood Ducks.

The park is less than 150 miles from Lakeland. Nicely outfitted cabins are \$55 and sleep four. You can get more park information at 352-473-4701 or online at [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com).

By Gary McCoy

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## Fall Warbler Migration Walks Saddle Creek Park

Walks begin on Saturday, August 20th and continue each Saturday until the last on October 29th. Saddle Creek Park is on the north side of US 92, about 1-1/2 miles east of Combee Rd. Park at the north end of the park near the restrooms. Walk Coordinator is **Bob Snow**, 863-644-4868.

## Native Plant Sale

Our spring native plant sale was held April 30th at Street Nature Center. We had a great group of volunteers. Some of whom worked Friday and Saturday, came early and stayed late! Thank you one and all.

Sales were brisk: We sold almost all of our stock. A few people grew native plants at home and donated them for the sale. This is the best way to make more money, because all of the sale price is profit. So, please grow native plants for our next sale in October, 2005. We need to start potting now. There are pots at the center, if you need them.

We had two successful workshops. Gardening with Natives was by Bill Bissett, owner of The Natives nursery in Davenport, and well-known landscape architect. The other was the ever-popular, rainbarrel making. This was by Joe Wolfe, master gardener, member of Lake Region Audubon and faithful volunteer. Thank you both very much. You are greatly appreciated.

Our next native plant sale will be October, 2005. Please be prepared to volunteer, raise native plants, and buy, buy, buy native plants for your own yard. The wild life love them.

By Carrie Plair

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## An Evening with David Anderson President: Florida Audubon

December 6th at 7 PM David Anderson will give a talk at Street Audubon Center. Prior to the talk we will have a pot-luck supper. Members of Ridge and Lake Region Audubon are invited. Bring a dish and hear what Florida Audubon has planned for the future.

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## Pat Herbert

### Native Plant/Butterfly Garden

On Friday, May 20 the memorial garden to Pat Herbert was planted alongside the ramp to the front door of the Street Nature Center. **Carrie Plair** coordinated the planting with assistance by **Paul and Janet Anderson, Ron Butts, Lois Smith, Lonny Clark, Herman Moulden and Chuck Geanangle.**

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## Spring in the Green Swamp

The day chosen for our annual Green Swamp outing was a good one, but not a great one. There was no breeze at all in the morning making for sultry conditions. However, the wild flower show was spectacular, with about a hundred species of blooming and a few non-blooming species being observed and identified.

A couple of stops along Route 33 netted a few keepers. Ron Butts and I had scouted the trip the weekend before and as usual, it paid off nicely for the whole trip. Bay Lobelia (*Lobelia faeyana*), Venus Looking Glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*), and Mullein (*Verbascum virgatum*). Near the entrance to the 48,000-acre SWFWMD area north of Rock Ridge Road, the wild flowers were excellent. We found several

Pine Hyacinths (*Clematis baldwinii*), and shocking pink colored *Stenandrium dulce*, two of my favorite wild flowers. Other flowers here were the big *Viola septemloba* violates and the smaller lighter blue *Viola floridana*; and several Zephyranthes/Rain or Atamasco Lilies (*Z.atamasco*).

The Withlacoochee River was very high and as always the dark tannin-laden water flowing through the jungle-like swamp setting was a very beautiful sight. Just beyond the river were the loop trail, about 2.5 miles in length, starting to the west along an old tram way used to transport logs. We noted minimal damage to the forest from the three hurricanes of the fall. Some Southern Black Haw (*Viburnum rufidulum*) bushes were in bloom along the trail as well as a few Ruellia (*R. caroliniensis*). After a half mile or so the trail leaves the tram and heads to the north. We noted a few High Bush Blueberrys (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) and Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*), that also grow up north. Then the trail intersects with the main trail, which we took to head back east to complete the loop. Flowers were abundant along this section of trail, some of which passes through wet areas. We noted Yellow Butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea*) and a few Small

Butterwort (*P. pumila*): a new one for me, a long-stemmed plant with a small violet cluster of flowers on the top called Procession Flower or Few-flowered Milkwort (*Polygala incarnate*); and White Lobelia (*L. paludosa*). A short hike into an area about a mile

north of the river, found by Ron and I another time, yielded more good flowers. Some deep blue Southern Blue Flags (*Iris virginica*) were blooming in water with Sneezeweed (*Helenium pinnatifidum*) nearby on the wet border. Other flowers here were Pineland Daisy (*Chaptalia tormentosa*), Longleaf Violet (*Viola lanceolata*), Pink Sundew (*Drosera capellaris*), some in bloom with tiny dainty flowers, and with some small areas

carpeted with these reddish partial

carnivorous plants. The last major area for a walk-about was located about 200 yards up Powder Grade Road. Ron and I had found several Grass Pink Orchids (*Calopogon barbatus*), the week before, but even though we could not locate those plants we found several others. Both Blue and Yellow Butterwort were in profusion, and a few ancient (timewise) Club Moss (*Lycopodium cernuum*) plants.

Some other flowers of note were Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*), Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*), Tall Milkwort (*Polygala ruglii*), and the state flower Leavenworth's Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*).

A memorable moment occurred up Powder Grade when we were looking over a few flowers including a Roserush (*Lygodesmia aphylla*), when a fresh breeze came up to break the calm, something to luxuriate in. A Couple of high-flying Swallow-tailed Kites were the most notable birds observed. It was definitely another great day in the Green Swamp surrounded by nature in all its splendor.

**Paul Fellers**



Passion Flower by Herman

**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!!

**IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED.....**

Have you noticed how neat the volunteer area is in the pantry at the Nature Center? This is the work of a new volunteer, Joan Lindey. She has put up a new bulletin board, cleaned up, thrown out old out-of-date stuff, and organized the pantry area. Another new volunteer, Tom Zimmer, is working on the trails, removing invasive plants and keeping the trails in good shape. And pictures, we have plenty!! Taken by Tony Catalano, and Norm Brewer; of the Bird Club group, birds, Nature Faire, and volunteers in action. Check our website and also Norm's for some interesting pictures. And, thanks to Kay Breckenridge and Susan Furth, for helping at the Polk County Environmental Lands Nature Festival on April 9, 2005, and at Spring Obsession in Munn Park on March 12, 2005. These are just a few of our very notable volunteers, if you see them, say THANKS!! And also, Thanks to ALL of YOU!! For volunteering!!!

**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

**2005-2006 Officers****Steering Committee:**

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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, Gil and 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.**

## Nature is Harmed

Paper is useful,  
but also harmful.  
It kills the beautiful trees.  
Oil helps cars,  
pass under the stars.  
But litters the glorious seas.  
Are cars also not  
like furious bots,  
polluting the air that we breathe?  
My story is all done.  
But, the future will be won  
with a paradise that will bring relief!

*Lauren Mae McNamar, Age 9*

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This poem was submitted by Ron Butts. The author is his neighbor.

## Hello

## Audubon!

My name is Katie Fisk and I am Audubon of Florida's 2005 roseate spoonbill technician in Tampa Bay. Many of you may have met me at the Audubon Conference in March when I was handing out flyers about the roseate spoonbill project and how to report bands. For those of you whom I haven't met, the project I am involved in is a monitoring project to find out not only about the status of roseate spoonbill populations in Florida, but also to find out basic questions about spoonbill biology, as amazingly very little is known (we don't even know what birds look like at any given age or their lifespan!). To do this, the Florida Coastal Island Sanctuaries and Tavernier Science Center offices of Audubon of Florida have been banding roseate spoonbill chicks in Tampa and Florida Bay since 2003 and relying on the public to report sightings of bands. We're hoping to get the word out to as many outdoor enthusiasts as possible so that we can get many band sightings! So far, spoonbills that were banded in Tampa Bay alone have been sighted as far south as Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and as far north as coastal Georgia! I know that some of you have already told your members through meetings or newsletters about the spoonbill project, which is wonderful and I thank you! For the rest of you who did not know

about the project or haven't been able to tell your members about it, I have attached a copy of a flyer (in Microsoft Word format) that details the roseate spoonbill monitoring project which I am involved in. I would greatly appreciate any help in spreading the word about keeping an eye out for banded spoonbills so that we can do all that we can to learn more about and work to conserve such a wonderful and beautiful bird. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via mail at [ktfisk@yahoo.com](mailto:ktfisk@yahoo.com) or via phone at the Audubon office in Tampa at (813) 623-6826. Thank you so much for all of your support and keep watching those great birds!

Sincerely,

Katie Fisk  
2005 Roseate Spoonbill Technician  
Audubon of Florida  
[ktfisk@yahoo.com](mailto:ktfisk@yahoo.com)

## Planting the Butterfly Garden May 20th Photos by Lonny Clark



## Audubon Saddle Creek Property

Audubon has nearly 500 acres of property to the north-east of Eaton Park, east of Lakeland. It has a nice series of old phosphate pits on it. We are now clearing the top of the berms around the pits to open them for trails. Work-days are Wednesday at 9 am. We work for 3 to 4 hours. If you can cut or clean brazilian pepper, come on out. Contact Herman Moulden at [hmoulden@peoplepc.com](mailto:hmoulden@peoplepc.com) for details.

## Fort DeSoto Spring Bird Migration

For the two dozen of us who partook of the annual spring trek over to Fort DeSoto, April 16<sup>th</sup> was definitely red letter with 102 species observed (the writer logged 98). Weather was super, starting at a refreshing 55 degrees and topping out at a pleasant 77 degrees in the afternoon. Some of the keepers were 4 Roseate Spoonbills (seen on the drive there). Female Redhead Duck (at the Tierra Verde Pond); 5 plover species: 2 Black-bellied, rare snowy (North Beach), 2 Wilsons' (East Beach), 8 Semipalmated, and rare Piping (North Beach); 2 American Oystercatchers (on Howard Frankland Bridge rail); 2 Red Knot (North Beach); 5 Sandwich Terns (North Beach); 5 Black-hooded Parakeets; pair of Chuck-will-widows (on a log at the family picnic area); Eastern Kingbird (normally an insect eater, at the Mulberry Trees and sporting some red berry juice



Indigo Bunting by Herman

on the white front); 2 Wood Thrushes; 8 Warbler species, best being: 3 male Blackpoll, 3 Prothonotary, 2 Worm-eating, a rare Swainson's, and 2 Hooded; and most of the following birds at the Mulberry Tree area: 4 Summer Tanagers, 6 Scarlet Tanagers (2 female), 3 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 6 Indigo Buntings, 12 Orchard Orioles, and 2 Baltimore Orioles.

Brown-bag lunch was under the trees at the fort, while dinner for those of us who stayed the day was enjoyed at the Ybor City's Spaghetti Warehouse. In the field that day were a couple of other stellar birders, Paul Sykes and Bill Pranty. It was good to see them there. Hope to see you, too, on the trail.

**Paul Fellers**

## KID'S NATURE FESTIVAL AT TENOROC

On April 30th a well attended Kid's Nature Festival was held at Tenoroc near Lakeland. Since the Audubon Spring Native Plant Sale was on the same day, Paul Anderson was the sole representative of Audubon there. In addition to distributing Audubon literature and membership applications several crafts were offered. One was insect bingo (everybody wins) with a choice of prizes including bird shaped gliders, magnifying glasses, bracelets, bookmarks, etc. There was also a poster display showing good bugs and bad bugs, and the differences between spiders and insects. The children were encouraged to make either an insect or a spider from marshmallows and toothpicks which were supplied. Most toddlers chose to eat the marshmallows rather than make a bug! Both crafts were well received. Each visiting child was also given a nature pencil.



Paul Anderson

**Nature Fair Photos by  
Tony Catalano**

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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](http://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:**

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Lake Region Audubon Society  
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