



EAGLE'S VIEW



Lake Region
Audubon
Nov-Dec 2005
Volume 16, Issue 1

Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



TROPICAL BUTTERFLIES

Linda F. Cooper

Imagine an iridescent Blue Metalmark, smaller than a Pearl Crescent – imagine 100 or more of them in a small area. Suddenly a tiny bright green hairstreak with silver markings, a Silver-banded Hairstreak, comes into view and then a rich red-orange Tropical Leafwing swoops down and swirls back up into a tree and disappears, camouflaged perfectly as a leaf when the wings are closed. On a potato tree branch, emperors, leafwings, an occasional Mexican Bluewing and beetles jostle each other to sample the rotting fruits. Out of the corner of your eye you see a large dark butterfly with a broad crimson band across the hindwings, a Red Rim, move into view only to be displaced by a large White-angled Sulphur that looks like a heavily veined leaf. Where are you? Welcome to the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas!

In years with mild winters and good rains, many Mexican butterflies cross the Rio Grande to breed or feed. For the past four years we have been visiting this area during October to indulge ourselves with these tropical butterflies. We began our indulgence by attending the Mission Texas Butterfly Festival in 2001. The festival has field trips,



seminars, speakers, a children's parade, identification workshops, vendors, displays, plant sales and friendly people. The festival also sponsors trips into Mexico – something we have done for two years. This gives an opportunity for something really neat like Anna's 88 or Zebra Stripe-streak.



The emphasis on butterfly gardening is paying off in the valley. World Birding Center gardens in Mission, Edinburg and Harlingen are hotbeds of activity. The World Birding Center in McAllen, opening in spring 2006, has extensive old growth thorn scrub as well as open areas

with native plants. Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge on the coast has beautiful butterfly gardens. The North American Butterfly Association's International Butterfly Park at Mission is taking shape nicely with extensive gardens and revegetated areas along the river. Frontera Audubon and Valley Nature Center in Weslaco have extensive gardens. Many residents of the valley have butterfly gardens and are very happy to have visitors. Even the Golden Dewdrop (*Duranta repens*) hedge at Mission West RV Park where we camp is a huge draw for butterflies. This October we recorded 65 species at the hedge including Tailed Aguna, Yellow-angled Sulphur and everyone's favorite – Guava Skipper.



At any of these sites you can spend hours indulging yourself with birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Come on down to the friendly Lower Rio Grande Valley and see what the fun is all about. Contact the Mission Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-580-2700 or www.missionchamber.com. Information about the butterfly festival is also available online at www.texasbutterfly.com. **

Environmental Issue in Arizona

Colleagues,

Huachuca Audubon Society is writing to you to bring a serious local conservation issue to your attention and ask for your help in publicizing it. Many of your members will have seen the recent national publicity on the "Minuteman Project", in Cochise County along the Arizona border with Mexico. Most of the attention was on the social and potential national security issues involved with illegal immigration across this border. Very little, if any, attention was directed towards the severe environmental consequences experienced here at "ground zero".

Biologically, Cochise County is rich and diverse, combining a cottonwood-willow riparian corridor, rare in the Southwest, with semi-desert grasslands, then, rising through oak forests to montane zone conifer-clad peaks. We are home to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), a globally important migration corridor for millions of birds each year and one of The Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places"; several "sky island" ranges, including the Huachuca Mountains, home to Miller Peak Wilderness and world-renown Ramsey Canyon Preserve; and the National Park Service's Coronado National Memorial.

All of these resources are being severely degraded by the heavy human traffic, which has much more personally important priorities than concern for our environment. New and inappropriate trails are worn in the landscape. Switchbacks are cut in existing trails.

Literally tons of trash are left on the landscape, distressing the human eye and psyche and threatening the lives of local wildlife. In addition, fires set deliberately or by accident are taking an increasing toll on habitat. Tens of thousands of acres have burned in human caused fires in the last few years. Since much of the travel is at night, many animal species seem to be declining, possibly due to the invasion of what used to be "low impact time" as well as space.

Unfortunately, one of the ironies is that some of the U.S. Border Patrol's proposed solutions (fences, roads and authorization to take ORVs into wilderness) to the problem may end up doing as much damage as the illegal entrants themselves.

We ask that you publicize our under-reported problem to your membership and bring it to the attention of your congressional representatives. It is only when there is a national solution that the severe degradation of this sensitive area will be contained. If businesses and individuals in your area who hire illegal aliens were held accountable under current laws, the demand for these workers would decrease to the point that our damaged environment might have a chance to recover.

Thank you for your attention and action.

Tricia Gerrodette, President

Huachuca Audubon Society, Arizona

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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.

Give Florida's Birds a Voice!

Audubon of Florida's online Advocacy Center keeps you up-to-date on issues facing our environment! Sign up for free monthly e-newsletters and learn how you can help birds with the click of a mouse!



<http://ga1.org/natureadvocate/home.html>



Feature Photo

Green Heron at Circle B Bar Reserve on Lake Hancock.

Photo by Herman

Send your photo to the editor for publication as the Feature Photo.

Send as an e-mail attachment to:
hmoul@verizon.net

or

Send a print or file on disk to:

Editor
3101 Young Court
Lakeland, FL 33803

Lake Region Web Site

The printed version of the *Eagle's View* is in black and white. For a full color version, check it out on the Lake Region web site at www.lakeregion.net. The butterflies on the cover are much nicer in full color. You will also find the latest schedules and other information. Rae Bourquein is the webmaster and she does a terrific job keeping it current.

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. Workdays 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 hmoul@verizon.net for details.

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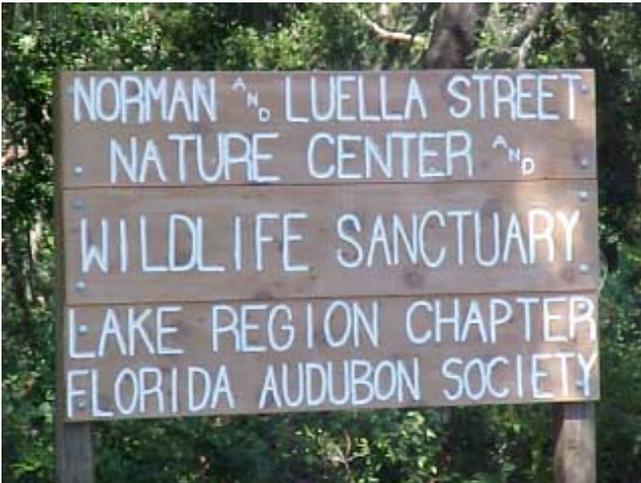


Brooke Pottery
223 North Kentucky Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801
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www.brookepottery.com

Eagle Scout Project at Street Audubon Center



The Crew with New Sign



New Sign

My name is Collin Williams and I am currently ranked as a Life Scout at BSA Troop 121 in Winter Haven, Florida. My friends and I have just completed my Eagle Scout Project at the Lake Region Audubon Society, which can be clearly seen at the entrance. My project consisted of removing and clearing bushes, vines and shrubs from the front entrance fence line and entryway, planting a butterfly garden, and replacing the old entrance sign and mailbox. The project was planned and carried out in a time period of about three months. I hope what some of my closest friends and I have done for you all will bring many years of enjoyment.

I'd like to thank the Audubon Society and all its members for giving me the opportunity to give something back to the community. I would also like to thank the entire Boy Scout Troop 121 for the support and generosity they've shown me. Also, my friends at Troop 123 were vital in bringing my project to completion. As I continue to grow, I hope to return to admire my project and to see the changes that are made for many years after.

Thanks, Collin Williams **

Working on the Garden



Old Sign

**Saddle Creek
Fall Warbler Migration Walks
Bob Snow**

The Lake Region Audubon sponsored migration walks at Saddle Creek, which started August 20th and ended October 29th, held some surprises. We observed a total twenty-eight species of warblers, the most notable being Canada, Golden-winged, Wilson's, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, and Blackpoll Warblers. Twenty observations of Magnolia Warblers were recorded. No Kentucky Warblers were reported, which is unusual for Saddle Creek. The highest counts occurred on October 8th and 15th, with a total of eighteen warbler species observed. Other surprises included calling Eastern Screech Owls, which were heard on several Saturdays. They responded readily, to Chuck Geanangel's recording of Screech Owls. We also heard and observed King Rail, Sora Rail, and two Least Bitterns. Paul Fellers identified a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on one of our walks, and a migrating Broad-winged Hawk.

Our resident Short-tailed Hawk was present on all but a few of the walks. We were graced with observations of perched Short-tailed Hawks on two Saturdays.

Saddle Creek continues to attract birders from long distances. We welcomed visitors from England and California on several of our Saturday walks. A total of 160 participants enjoyed our walks, including several neighboring Audubon groups. **

OPEN HOUSE - NOVEMBER 13, 2005

We had a very lovely day, The weather was perfect and if you didn't come you missed a very good meal put out by "A Catered Affair." If you want more of his good food, he owns "Mike's American-Italian Restaurant" located at 836 6th St. NW, Winter Haven, FL. It is in the Plaza behind the 14K Jewelry Store. I wish to thank all the chairmen for all their cooperation and especially all the many people who worked so hard to put this program together. It was a great show of comradeship. We did raise approximately \$800.00. We may even obtain a few more volunteers.

Marvel Loftus, Chairman

LRAS Bird Club

We had our first trip for the year. We went to Ft. DeSoto Park. The weather was perfect and the 15 spectators enjoyed it immensely. We saw 59 species. It was wonderful to see Redhead Ducks in Tierra Verde Pond, and all the plovers at the East Beach turn around. It was great to see about 150 Royal Terns mixed in with about 50 Black Skimmers. What a sight. We ate lunch at the North Beach and watched the Yellow-crowned Night Herons. A Reddish Egret even did his dance for us. All in all, it was a great trip. Come and join us. Our schedule is on our website.

Marvel Loftus

Phone 836 9657 E-mail MARVEL769@aol.com

Bird Club Dec. & Jan. Trips

Dec. 1, 2005 Viera Wetland, Melbourne

Dec. 8, 2005 Green Swamp & Gator Creek Reserve

Jan. 5, 2006 Titusville

Jan. 12 2006 Morris Birdge, Hillsborough River State Park

Jan. 19 2006 Arbuckle State Forest

Jan. 26 Celery Fields, Sarasota **

You're a Birder if You've Done Any of These

**Seen the two crests on a Double-crested
Cormorant**

**Heard the Barred Owl say "Who Cooks for
You!"**

**The Art of Photography
Photography Class**

Tony Catalano will present instruction on "The Art of Photography. Classes start on Saturday March, 4, 2006 and continue for four consecutive Saturdays. 9:00AM to Noon at the Street Audubon Center. For details and enrollment contact Tony at pegtony515@msn.com.

Paul Fellers - Alaska Adventure; Continued from Last Issue

Valdez would be our final port, a long 450 miles distant: north then east along the Matanuska Valley with high mountains of the Chugach range visible to the south. About 50 miles west of Glennallen, Sue spotted the first of 3 Northern Hawk Owls on dead treetops. On the road south from Glennallen, Worthington Glacier merited a short visit, and it was easy to see the retreating path of the glacier over the past 100 years or so, showing the effect of global warming.

About 20 miles north of Valdez, we spent time at Thompson Pass at 2,722 feet. A mountain lake, snow-covered, rugged mountains, and a mile hike on the top of a ridge with lots of alpine flowers blooming was wonderful, but no White-tailed Ptarmigan showed up to go on my life list. A bit down from the summit toward Valdez is Keystone Canyon with towering walls and 600 foot Bridal Veil Falls, and Horsetail Falls, both near the road. The weather had turned a bit sour on us, so the Keystone Hotel was home for 2 nights.

Valdez lies in a gorgeous setting on Prince William Sound surrounded by the Chugach Mountains. We drove out along the water toward the huge Trans Alaska Pipeline Terminal where 20% of U.S. oil needs are piped from Prudhoe Bay 800 miles to the north. On the rocky beach we spotted 2 Wandering Tattlers and 3 Black Oystercatchers, but the biggie was 25 Sea Otters feeding out about 150 yards. Tidal flats near town produced 330 American Wigeon, 9 Gadwalls, and 7 Trumpeter Swans.

On the road out to Valdez Glacier, we lucked into our only Black Bear of the trip. In the winter of 1899, gold seekers went up over the glacier to get to the interior, but many died in the severe weather. The next year, army personnel found the Thompson Pass, a much easier route.

My time in Alaska was coming to an end, so back north it was. But not before we made a couple more small trips. We drove about 33 miles to Chitina on the 60-mile road to Kennecott, home to the huge copper mine that operated from 1911-1938. The story goes that 2 prospectors in the summer of 1900 saw green cliffs above them, and so discovered the richest copper vein ever. At Chitina we stopped by the Ranger Station, which was housed in a vintage

building and served as a neat little museum.

Back on the highway, at Gakona Junction we headed along the famed Copper River toward Tok north of the Wrangell-St. Elias N.P., the largest in the U.S. The Wrangell Mountains have several peaks over 14,000 feet. On a small pond west of Tok we were pleased to see a pair of Trumpeter Swans with a cygnet. Tok turned out to be a neat town with several great gift shops, including a nice one in our motel, the Snowshoe, located at mile 1314 on the Alaska Highway.

Up the road just north of Delta Junction is a 20-mile long agricultural project having lots of fields. Here we found about 25 Moose (several with young), Upland Sandpiper, Hairy Woodpecker, our first Bufflehead Ducks, Ruffed Grouse with chicks, several Hammonds and Alder Flycatchers, and a Lincoln and 3 Fox Sparrows.

At Fairbanks not a room was to be had because of a Summer Solstice celebration, so I tented at the local Chena River State Campground. The last day before leaving, Sue and I checked out Chena Road, which goes 60 miles to the east to Chena Hot Springs, started in 1902 as a resort. Lots of ponds lined the road, many with ducks, one a female Goldeneye with 9 duckings. A nice 3-mile loop hike was a good break for us and Beethoven.

The final drive was east out on the Steese Highway that ends at the Yukon River 163 miles away. A couple of side roads went off, one that went by a ski area and continued to a huge gold mine that already had consumed half a mountain, and the other went to heights where we saw Boreal Chickadees.

We stopped 28 miles out at old-timey Chatanika Lodge, a really interesting place. Here, Sue and I enjoyed a final Alaska Amber beer to celebrate our Alaskan Adventure.

Miles traveled by land vehicle over the 3 weeks were 2,700, by plane 1,200, and by boat about 120. Total bird species were 160 with 26 lifers (and maybe 28 if 2 other birds that we saw can be identified), plus 1 addition to my U.S. list (Mew Gull).

Many thanks are due Sue and Mary for every thing they made possible during the trip.

Finally, I knew the Great Alaskan Adventure was over when our Boeing 757 captain announced that the majestic snow-covered peaks rising above the clouds to our west were the Wrangell Mountains located in southeastern Alaska.

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Audubon Newswire
“News on Audubon Happenings”
Volume 3, Number 20
Friday, November 11, 2005

Provided by Chuck Geanangel

Audubon’s 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count to Take Place December 14, 2005 - January 5, 2006

Ivyland, PA, November 11, 2005 - From December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006, the National Audubon Society’s longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place throughout the Americas. During the 106th CBC, approximately 55,000 volunteers of all skill levels are expected to take part in this census of birds.

“Having fun while birding can identify important results that help shape the direction of bird conservation,” says Geoff LeBaron, National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count director. “Audubon and our partners at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Boreal Species Initiative are analyzing data from the overall CBC database, and using the results they find to develop Audubon’s ‘State of the Birds’ report. These important results will be reflected in 2006 in our ‘State of the Birds’ waterbirds report, and inform the Audubon WatchList, which is used to prioritize Audubon’s bird conservation activities.”

Upcoming Events

- Dec 3, 2005 Honeymoon Island Field Trip
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486
- Dec 17, 2005 Christmas Bird Count
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486
- Jan 9, 2006 Ornithology 101
Bird Identification Classes
5 Mondays
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486
- Jan 14, 2006 Mosaic Phosphate Mines
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486
- Feb 17, 2006 Merritt Island NWR Birding
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486

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.

2005-2006 Officers

Steering Committee:

Bill Karnofsky 863.324.5282 brkay@juno.com

Mae Hartsaw 863.533.6236

Chuck Geanangel 863.326.5748

hoatzin@tampabay.rr.com

Carrie Plair 963.683.8094 clplair@msn.com

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VP/Programs: Mae Hartsaw 863.533.6236

VP/Conservation: Chuck Geanangel 863.326.5748

VP/Field Trips: Paul Fellers 863.293.0486

VP Membership: Gary McCoy 863.853.2643

VP Newsletter: Herman Moulden

hmoul@verizon.net

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: Louise Lang, Marvel Loftus, Gil and Gina Lucas, Ron Butts, Gary McCoy, Herman Moulden, Bob Snow, and Ann Pinner

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 short-handed. 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!!

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Street Audubon Center
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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.

Name: _____

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General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

7:00 PM

at

The Street Audubon Center

115 Lameraux Road

Winter Haven Fl

There will be a General Membership Meeting and
Election of the Board of Directors and Officers

All Lake Region Audubon Society members are
invited to attend