



Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



The Galapagos Islands

Charles Geanangel

I guess I wanted to travel to the islands of Charles Darwin and “The Beagle” since I first heard about them when I was nine years old. Sixty years were to pass, but this June 2006, found me there along with my friends Pete and Nancy Timmer from Lake Alfred. It was a very long time coming but well worth the wait.

We flew the 600 miles from the Ecuador coast in two hours and landed on the airstrip at Baltra which was, believe it or not, an old WW II US airbase once used to guard the approach to the Panama Canal. Even back in 1943 it was only a few hours away by air from the Canal Zone. Today the Ecuadorian government maintains a modern jetport to handle the 100,000 annual visitors to the Galapagos Islands. Right off the airplane we ticked four lifers while waiting in line to pay our \$100 fee to get into the National Park. A Small Ground-Finch, a Medium



Small Ground Finch

Ground-Finch, and a Cactus Finch were feeding on the ground near the jetport entrance and a pretty little Galapagos Dove was watching from the sidewalk nearby. Darwin Finches were to be found in every biological niche and although a few of the 13 species were rare or difficult to locate, in general, you were never too far from a finch on any of the 13 main islands. The Ground-Finches were by far the most common and the all black males were easy to ID. The key to proper identification of the finches, however, is the shape and size of the bill. That task is made somewhat easier by the fact that not all of the finches are on all of the islands. Still, even our bird guide had to pass on identifying many birds because the bill was just not clearly one species or another.

The total land area of these islands is 4800 square miles or about two and one half times that of Polk County and the largest island, Isabela, is almost 100 miles in length and contains 1800 square miles, a little less than our Polk County. The high point is the volcano Wolf which towers over the Pacific Ocean at 5600 feet. Indeed the entire archipelago is of volcanic origin. Lava dominates every feature from the beaches to the highest elevations. The weather is remarkably constant. Rainfall is scarce along the coasts but can reach 50 to 80 inches annually at some inland elevations. The lack of fresh water is a limiting factor everywhere.

A few minutes from the airport we boarded our intra island transport, the Nemo II, a new 72 foot catamaran that holds 12 passengers and a crew of five. From this graceful ship we would spend the next 8 days exploring the world of Charles Darwin, finding it much as he found it in 1835. Our first stop was at North Seymour Island to see the nesting frigatebirds and boobies. Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls, both lifers for



Our Intrepid Explorer

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me, were fairly common there. Land iguanas are generally hard to find but not on this island. That night we made fairly long jog to the north which carried us to Tower Island, a flat desolate place, where we found our first endemic mockingbird along with Sharp-beaked and Large Ground-Finch and Large Cactus Finch. We were stunned by the sight of 300,000 storm-petrels swarming over the lava fields, searching for nesting sites. This island like all the others has an English name, Tower, and a Spanish name, Genovesa, which makes for confusion at times. The Spanish names are all based on Christopher Columbus's travels, who, as you know never got within a thousand miles of the Galapagos.



Galapagos Mockingbird

That evening we sailed west over 100 miles of fairly rough seas to the island of Fernandina where we found the only flightless cormorants in the world and the only spot on earth where penguins, flamingos and cactus occur together. The volcanic origins of the islands are clearly evident here and some eruptions have occurred within the last few years. At Black Beach which is just across the water on Isabela, the largest island, we were very lucky to find a single Mangrove Finch whose number is said to be only a few dozen. They are, as the name implies, confined to mangrove edges which is not abundant in the islands. Ergo, Mangrove Finches are also not abundant. Galapagos Penguins, Flightless Cormorants and the Galapagos

Hawk were much easier to find along with piles of Marine Iguanas warming in the equatorial sun. The iguanas feed on sea grasses in the surrounding ocean which, although it is situated directly on the equator, can get quite cool.

We sail south now and the waters provide many whale sightings, highlighted by a pod of 70 or more dolphins feeding on schools of tuna. The next stop is at Point Moreno to see the fabled Galapagos Martins and our first flamingos. We quickly find that the trail wanders for a couple of miles over an old lava flow. Of course when the lava cooled years ago it shattered into thousands of pieces and there was no easy way across. Hopping from one teetering piece of lave to another is no fun. It was brutal. We did see the martin and although battered and bruised we made it back to the Nemo. We gladly headed to our next port of call, the small village of Villamil on the southern coast of Isabela. Our group loaded on to the back of a large truck and we were driven a few miles up into the highlands to find a wetter area with some large trees and even some small



Tree Finch

farms. There we located our first Woodpecker Finch, a Vegetarian Finch, along with several strangely out of place Vermillion Flycatchers. A nice Dark-billed Cuckoo made an appearance while we were visiting a tortoise hatchery run by the government to breed some of the scarcer races of the Galapagos tortoises. While some races are common others are on the edge of extinction. Lonesome George from the island of Pinta, for example, is the last of his kind and he is reputed to be over 100 years old. These tortoises are said to reach an age of 200 years which makes them the longest lived animal on earth. That afternoon we drove along the beach for several miles to see another artifact of the late war, the site of a US radar station and the Wall of Tears, a bizarre remnant of an Ecuadorian prison camp a la Devils Island of the same period. There too we had our first look at a Galapagos Flycatcher. After supper, we were off to the southern most island of Florena and more adventures. Of the three kinds of tree-finches this is where the Medium Tree-Finch is most easily seen. The port here is Velasco Ibarra, a town of several thousand, and home to several Internet Café's for those so inclined. Our transportation here was a minibus and it took us up a few miles into the highlands to see some small farms and a pirates cave. Along the road side we found both the Medium and Small Tree-

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Finch so only the Large Tree-Finch had escaped our ticking. Tree finches are much less common than the ubiquitous ground-finches which is understandable in that larger trees are found only in association with the more watered slopes. We hopped back on the Nemo and circled around the island to anchor off the shore of the small rocky islet of Champion where we spotted the Charles Mockingbird. To protect this rare bird, no one is allowed ashore here so birdwatchers have to find the bird by cruising along the edge of Champion Island. It's a tiny spot and there can't be but a few of these guys at the best. They may be the most endangered species on our whole trip. Charles, by the way is the old name for Florena which was renamed Santa Maria. The names were much easier in Darwin's time.



Galapagos Sea Lion

With that behind us we are off to Hood Island home of the Waved Albatross colonies and yet another species of mockingbird, the Hood Mockingbird. This island is the oldest in the archipelago at around 3 million years. The rough lava has been worn smooth so that walking there is more like walking on a field of



San Christobal

bowling balls. I'm never satisfied, I know but after thirty years of hiking in Florida I am not good on rocks, sharp or round. Next evening we travel to San Cristobel, the capital to find the Chatham Mockingbird the last of the four mockers found in the Galapagos. Much is made of the finches here but the evolution of mockingbirds is equally interesting. Our guide tells us that DNA testing will show four separate species in the islands but not necessarily the four that we have tracked down. Curiously, we first found this last bird in the local cemetery. We quickly retreat back to the

Nemo and are off to our penultimate stop of the adventure. Santa Fe Island is mainly a snorkeling spot and is visually one of the most attractive spots we visit. I tried snorkeling early on but the water was too cold for me and the currents too swift. Others in the group, however, enjoyed the opportunity. Santa Cruz is only a couple of hours off and there we bid farewell to Nemo II and her fine crew. It was dry land for us and a proper hotel bed. We have two species left to tick and one was highly unusual. Our group was forced to climb to the top of the volcano to find a bloody Galapagos Rail. Who would believe you would have to climb a mountain to find any kind of rail. Later on we would find others near the trail on a local ranch but you never know these things. The last endemic bird of the trip was found nearby, a Large Tree-Finch. Summing up the birds we found all of the finches and mockingbirds that lived in the islands a total of 31 new species for me and 62 total bird species for the Galapagos Islands. In other words a clean sweep. Wow! That never has happened before. I seem to always leave something behind but not this tour. The trip over the island was anticlimactic and we just sat back and enjoyed the wonderful scenery on the way to the airport.

It took Charles Darwin 20 years to truly realize what he had seen in five weeks on these enchanted islands. I don't have 20 years left so I will have to savour the experience now before my next trip. ***

To view these photos in color visit the Lake Region web site at www.lakeregion.net

THOSE CONFUSING ORANGE SKIPPERS

IS IT A FIERY OR WHIRLABOUT?

by Linda F. and Byrum W. Cooper

I remember standing in a field when we first started watching butterflies with a field guide in my hand and a puzzled look on my face. There was a small orange skipper with some dark spots on its ventral hindwings – was it a Fiery or a Whirlabout? Would I ever be able to tell the difference between those two? Not possible, I thought. And these were the males! If you are having trouble distinguishing between these two small orange skippers, this article should be of help.

First let's look at how they are similar. Both are small and both have orange males and variable females. Both males have a large stigma on the dorsal forewing with an extra dark patch between the stigma and forewing apex. Both are very common in yards, fields and roadsides. If you have St. Augustine or Bermuda grass in your yard both these skippers will be there.



Whirlabout, *Polites vibex*, is a small compact grass skipper. It is one of three *Polites* found in this area. Males are usually quite orange and have 'squarish' dark spots on the ventral hindwing. When males have their wings open, you can see a very SMOOTH dark border around the entire orange dorsal hindwing. Their dorsal forewing is also orange with a slightly jagged dark border and a dark stigma.



Female Whirlabouts are usually quite brownish to olive in color and the 'squarish' dark spots can be very prominent or almost non-existent. When females have their wings open they are very brown with small creamy or pale subapical spots and several creamy or pale spots on the dorsal forewings. The dorsal hindwings are entirely brown. The males and females can look like different

species. Both have the same shape though – very compact. If you see a female skipper you cannot identify – “When in doubt, think Whirlabout!”



Fiery Skipper, *Hylephila phyleus*, is the only member of its South American genus found in North America. Males are usually quite orange with a scattering of small 'pepper' spots on the ventral hindwing. When males have their wings open, you can see a jagged dark border around the bottom of the orange dorsal hindwing – sort of like orange 'flames' intruding

into the dark border. The flames are even more prominent on the dorsal forewing, intruding deeply into the border. They too have a large stigma.





Females are usually a paler orange than males with olive overtones on the ventral hindwing. Females have a diffused pattern on their ventral hindwings and the 'pepper' spots are scattered over the pattern, sometimes looking like female Sachems because of this pattern. When females open their wings they have a very 'busy' pattern on the dorsal forewing but have no

translucent spots such as female Sachems have. Their dorsal hindwings are mostly brown with elongated orange bars. Several field guides mention that Fiery Skippers have short antennae but that is something we have never keyed in on. Fiery Skippers have a more upright forewing than Whirlabout and appear more 'streamlined' Whirlabout.



in shape than the compact



You can only read butterfly descriptions for so long without getting blurry-eyed. Try your skills on this mating pair of small skippers. Now grab those binoculars and get out in your yard and identify those small orange skippers. The more practice you have the better your identification skills become and the more confident you become. Have fun.

All photos by Linda Cooper

To view these photos in color visit the Lake Region web site at www.lakeregion.net

Help for Birders - www.eBird.org

One of the locations found on the internet which is of interest to Polk bird watchers, of all skill levels, is www.eBird.org. This free site sponsored by Cornell University allows you to keep track of all of your bird sightings. Additionally, you can tap into the sightings of other birders who have reported their sightings. For example, if you want to know what birds were seen at Saddle Creek Park yesterday you would call up SCP and see what was reported yesterday, last week, or even all of last year. For your yard list you can create weekly, monthly, or annual lists. You can maintain backyard bird lists, year lists or life lists. The data base can go back to 1960 so even old lists can be recorded. Reports are easy to generate and the information storage is permanent. You can never lose or misplace them. If you were like me with field cards scattered about the house for the past 30 years, you can replace them all online.

For the past year I have been the Florida editor for eBird and it has been both a challenge and a learning experience. Why don't you start now.

Chuck Geanangel

eBird Florida editor

Winter Haven

FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNTS

Linda Cooper

Eleven years ago we began two North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July Butterfly Counts. Lake Region Audubon Society has been gracious and generous enough to support our efforts by paying each participant's fee of \$3.00. The count circles are set up exactly as Audubon Christmas Bird Count circles – a 15-mile diameter circle. Teams spread out from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. or so, depending on the weather, covering as much of the circle as they can. The counts are done close to the Fourth of July throughout the U. S., Canada and Mexico and are published each year by North American Butterfly Association (NABA).

Disney Wilderness Preserve, near Poinciana, is an 11,000 acre mosaic of flatwoods, swamps, oak hammocks, streams, lakefronts and former pastures. This count fielded three teams for a total of twelve people. One team works on the preserve, the other teams off the preserve. All contribute species not seen by another team. Below average rainfall this year made butterfly numbers below average though species numbers were average. If it hadn't been for Black Swallowtails, our swallowtail numbers would have been dismal. Tom Palmer found a new species for the count, off the preserve – Large Orange Sulphur. The lament of the day was "It's so dry!" Dry ditches mean the mowers can mow ALL roadside vegetation. Even in some of the wet ditches that move water through Poinciana there was no vegetation. Fireflag (*Thalia geniculata*), a native plant that grows in wet conditions, is the host plant for Brazilian Skipper, formerly Canna Skipper. This robust skipper could not be found either on DWP or off the preserve. We found only three caterpillars but no adults. We ended the day with 49 species and 647 butterflies. We have seen 77 different species over the past eleven years of the DWP count. Team members on July 1 were Tom Palmer, Ben Bindschadler, Denise Dunn, Libby Eastman, Sue Farnsworth, Kevin Kane, E. LaSpada, D. Miller, A. Pham, Nancy Prine, compiler Buck Cooper and the writer.



Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary (KPS) northwest of Okeechobee is so named because the count started on the old Audubon property, just east of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (KPPSP). In 2002 KPS became part of the state park but retains the old name of the count. The park is 84 square miles of dry prairie, interspersed with marshes, cabbage palm and oak hammocks, wet prairie, sloughs, and riverine habitat. KPPSP has a nationwide reputation as THE place in Florida for skippers. This count continues to draw enthusiastic seasoned butterfly watchers as well as enthusiastic beginners. Buck quickly split nineteen enthusiastic people into five teams –

four on state park property and one off park property. There isn't much shade on the prairie except for the hammocks. Nineteen people sweated under the blazing sun to count 58 species and 1680 (highest number recorded on the counts) butterflies. The prairie was also very dry but the roadsides were full of unmowed Frog Fruit (*Phyla nodiflora*) (aka Creeping Charlie, Capeweed, Match Plant and probably another half dozen common names), a favorite of grass skippers. Areas normally filled with Redroot (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*) had very few plants in bloom. Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) marshes were totally dry and could be walked with ease though it was an exercise in futility as the plants were not in bloom. Just as in DWP, swallowtails were mostly nonexistent. Two new butterflies were seen this year – Great Purple Hairstreak – found by Sue Farnsworth on the old Audubon property and Southern Cloudywing found by the Atherton



team! Emperors were in short supply, unlike last year, with only one Hackberry recorded but the skippers more than made up for it. Twenty-seven species of skippers were found including 162 Aaron's (our best count ever), 48 Palmetto, 7 Palatka, 10 Berry's, and 110 Delaware. Our species count total over eleven years is 76 and the state park butterfly list stands at 84. Team members on July 15 were Brooks and Lyn Atherton, Brenda and Charlie Beck, Ben Bindschadler, Linda and Rick Byrnes, Joie Clifton, Jeanne Dubi, Alana Edwards, Sue Farnsworth, Kathy and Tom Odom, Nancy Prine, Jeff Palmer, Tom Palmer, Ellen Tannehill, Buck Cooper and the writer.

Thanks to Disney Wilderness Preserve and KPPSP personnel for transportation and access. Thanks to all the participants who continue to make these counts fun and a learning experience for all. We greatly appreciate the support of Lake Region Audubon and welcome members' participation. You don't have to be an expert. Additional eyes often turn up additional species. The counts occur approximately the same time each year. If you are interested get in touch with Buck sometime during the year so he can set up teams ahead of time. You can reach him at 863.439.2704. Besides these counts we also participate in 15 other counts. Buck just started three more counts he compiles: one centered in the town of Okeechobee, one at Lake Louisa State Park near Clermont and the newest – Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County. We hope to have you join us on a NABA butterfly count next summer.

On another note - We are deeply troubled by the removal of ancient dunes in the southern part of the Disney Wilderness Preserve's count circle, outside the preserve itself. Any of you who have been on LRAS native plant trips have walked up these dunes



at the corner of Bayberry and Dogwood, south of Poinciana. These ancient dunes have been leveled... flat as a pancake...gone forever. Gone forever are the plants and animals that depended on them. These ancient dunes were deposited millennia ago when the central Florida ridge was all that was above

water. I watched truckload after truckload of ancient sand dunes being hauled off as fill for new housing projects. Outrageous that a developer has the right to do this!

American Bird Conservancy, a Most Worthwhile Organization

By Paul Fellers

If you are into birding, you may wish to join the American Bird Conservancy, in my estimation the top organization for keeping serious birders apprised of what's going on in the birding world. "They are dedicated to conserving native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas." Their publication *Bird Conservation* four times per year and *Bird Calls* newsletter three times per year are top drawer. When I joined some time ago, the best single publication on birds was included called "North American Landbird Conservation Plan" by Partners in Flight, a consortium of 18 conservation partners including the American Bird Conservancy, and published by the Cornell Lab for Ornithology. The core of the whole work in my estimation is the detailed table "Assessment Scores and Estimated Population Size of North American Landbirds." It was with a great deal of satisfaction that I learned that much of the data used to compile the table were from Breeding Bird surveys, something the writer knows quite a lot about having run 62 of them over the years.

A \$40 membership includes all of the publications. The address is: PO Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198.

Florida North American Migration Count Polk County May 13, 2006

By Paul Fellers

Thirteen observers: Larry Albright, Victoria Booth, T.J. Coburn, Buck Cooper, Helen Eastman, Paul Fellers (compiler), Chuck Geanangel, Liz Lane, Herman Moulden, Tom Palmer, Pete Timmer, and Bob Snow participated in the count. Most major birding areas were covered. The observers spent 25.5 hours by foot and 31 by car, and 16 miles by foot and 286 by car recording 115 species and 18,557 individuals. Birds of note included 2 Brown Pelicans, 3 Least Bittern, 34 Roseate Spoonbills (most in a rookery at 4-Corners Mosaic Phosphate Mine), Fulvous Whistling Duck (rare in county), 88 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, 2 Northern Shovelers (late), 3 Ring-necked Ducks (late), 6 Swallow-tailed Kites, Sharp-shinned Hawk (very late), 4 Cooper's Hawks, Merlin, 27 Semipalmated Plovers, 247 American Avocets, Spotted Sandpiper, 11 Western Sandpipers, 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, 4,300 peeps, 5,125 Stilt Sandpipers, 2 Gull-billed Terns, 200 Black Terns, 252 Black Skimmers, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 23 Chuck-Will's Widow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 44 Great-crested Flycatcher, 5 Eastern Kingbird, 12 Tree Swallow (late), 23 Rough-winged Swallow (high number and late), 6 Barn Swallow (late), Yellow-throated Vireo (singing), 36 N. Parula (high number), Palm Warbler (late), and 137 Bobolinks (several parties). Thanks are due to these folks who made our count so successful.

Avon Park Air Force Range Restoration

By Paul Fellers

For several years now there has been an advisory board to oversee restoration of contaminated sites at the range. Examples of contaminated sites are fuel spills, munitions burial sites, sanitary landfills, pesticide rinse basins, arsenic cattle dipping vats, etc. I've been a member since near the beginning, and have seen a great deal of progress made towards this end. Currently there are a half-dozen members, with John Kelly as Citizen Co-chair, and an additional five on the Air Force part of the team: Lt. Col. John Pechiney (Range Commander and Military Co-chair), Paul Ebersbach (Range Environmental Flight Chief), Mike Stevens (Range Environmental Restoration Program Manager), Stan Scott (Air Combat Command Program Manager), and Stacy Hayford (Avon Park Air Force Range).

Meetings are held several times per year with at least two of the meetings involving clean-up site visitations. A total of 76 Environmental Restoration Program sites exist in various stages of clean-up (including those finished) with currently 7 sites qualifying as "Areas of Concern." Several of the contaminated sites date back to World War II. At many of the meetings, extremely knowledgeable and capable individuals representing the Florida and national EPA's, and private organizations working with the committee have presented programs relative to the clean-up activity.

Since I have been and still am involved in leading primarily flower field trips to the range, I have a vested interest in the proceedings of the committee. The late Don Ford and I spent many an enjoyable day at the Range in years gone by. In late May and early June it is a special treat to observe up to six native orchids, and another 75 or so flowers. Fall is another highlight when sometimes whole fields fill up with blooming *Liatrus* and the rare, saffron-colored *Platanthera integra* orchid may be found in addition to other flowers, especially Catesby's or Pine Lily. Unfortunately, these days the Range managers reserve the Range during the fall for hunters only. It wasn't always so.

With live bombing by Navy jets set to begin shortly, causing lock-downs of the Range for several periods throughout the year, only time will tell what the effect on the flora and fauna at the 105,000-acre range will be. It will certainly cramp the style of regular outdoor recreationists there.

Wild Orchid Extravaganza at the Avon Park Air Force Range

By Paul Fellers

I always look forward to our annual spring trek to the Range to see what beauties of the flower world await us, and I don't think that we've ever been disappointed. This year, June 3, '06, was no exception for the 12 of us, with lots of neat flowers identified and a maximum of six orchid species found. Our first stop on Smith Road produced about 10 flowering species, the best being

Loosestrife.
Brown-eyed
Susan
(*Rudbeckia
hirta*) were
v e r y

attractive. A quick 2nd stop was at a big showing of Hempweed (*Mikania cordifolia*) hosting several white Peacock butterflies.

Dwelling on the orchids, our first was at the seep off of Durden Road with a pair of Snowy Orchids (*Platanthera nivea*) in their prime. Ron Butts and I had scouted the trip earlier making the actual field trip go much smoother. This was the fewest Snowys that I had ever encountered here, due most likely to the several-month drought, but farther along up the seep for a distance of about



Scarlet Lady Tresses

150' were perhaps a spectacular hundred Grass Pink Orchids (*Calopogon tuberosus*) varying in color from pale pink to deep pink. Interspersed among the Grass Pinks were four separate Rose Pogonia Orchids (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), one of my favorite wildflowers.



Our Dauntless Leader

Ancient (timewise) Foxtail Club Moss (*Lycopodium alopecuroides*) grew in a few areas. Several Fragrant Milkweed or Large Flower Milkweed (*Asclepias connivens*) were located in the big (what used to be wet) field across Durden Road along with lots of showy pink *Sabatia grandiflora*. Big groups of Southern Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia minor*), one of the carnivorous plants, were all through the area much to the amazement of some of the folks who had never experienced such a sight. A couple of sundew (*Drosera* sp., another carnivorous plant) were in bloom with their dainty, tiny, pink flowers. The area was dotted with Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium mohrii*), tall, spindly plants with white tips. Species of polygala included Yellow Bachelor's Button or Milkwort (*P. ruglii*); and *P. ramosa*, a short-stemmed, yellow flowering species, and Bog Bachelor's Button or Candyweed (*P. lutea*).

Then it was on to Morganhole Campground for lunch. We found a new spot a couple hundred yards from Kissimmee Road with picnic tables near Morganhole Creek under huge Live Oaks laden with bromeliads, Resurrection Ferns and our fourth orchid, Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampenses*), many flowers still in bud stage. Sharp-eyed Liz Lane announced half-way through lunch that she had found a pair of Barred Owls close by up the small creek, so we all adjourned to the spot. Sure enough, there was a Barred Owl real close for a great look.

Then it was across Kissimmee Road to the other section of Morganhole. Here we found more Butterfly Orchids and a few Golden Polypody or Goldfoot Ferns (*Phlebodium aureum*) up in the Live Oaks. Along Kissimmee Road heading back toward the H.Q., were a couple dozen Scarlet Ladies' Tresses (my favorite name) or Leafless Beaked Orchids (*Sacoila lanceolata*), our fifth orchid species, most in their prime. About 10 other flower species were blooming including lots of Brown-eyed Susans.

Driving along Ebersbach Road we noted many Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis subulata*), many not quite in bloom. At the terminus of the road, we found a lone but healthy specimen of Water-spider Orchid (*Habenaria repens*), our sixth orchid species, in a watery area. In a nearby field that 6 years earlier sported thousands of False Foxglove (*Agalinus fasciculata*, showy pink-flowered plants) when the field was wet, we noted only a residual handful of plants among the hundreds of small Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). A hot spot for Swallow-tailed Kites in the past, we were not disappointed with a sighting this time too. But the prize bird of the day was a cooperative, rare, light-phase Short-tailed Hawk right over us on Ebersbach Road on the way out.

A short stop along Frostproof Road across from the entrance to the boardwalk out to Lake Arbuckle (which by the way was closed due to damage from a huge recent wildfire) revealed several more Grass Pink Orchids. Our last stop (as it turned out) was along Bravo Road to view a big group of Tar Flowers (*Befaria racemosa*). It was here that one of the vehicles had engine trouble. When help finally arrived, it was time to wind things up, but not before we had enjoyed another great day at the Range with about 75 plants being identified. Among the 35 bird species seen, other birds of note not mentioned were 4 other American Swallow-tailed Kites, Cooper's Hawk, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, 6 Wild turkeys (2 large young), 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (near southernmost nesting area in the U.S.), 12 Eastern Bluebirds (there is a 100-box bluebird trail at the Range), and 5 Bachman's Sparrows, all singing. See you on the trail, and bring your camera to record some of nature's best! *****

Volunteers Needed

Hours are 9 am to noon or noon to 3 pm.
Duties are to be present at the Street Audubon Center, open the center and close it.
Call Ann Pinner at 956-2374

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Bird Club News.

The Organization Meeting will be on the First Thursday of November so mark your calendar. We meet at the Nature Center at 9:00 Am. Everybody is welcome. If you been with us before, we go every Thursday, except during the Holidays, to the first week in April. We bird the different places around our area and also on both coasts. It might entail some walking but mostly just short hikes under a mile. At the Organization Meeting we plan our annual schedule so come with ideas and suggestions. Come early and walk the nature center too.

Marvel Loftus 863 324 9657

LAKE REGION AUDUBON'S OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2006 - 2 to 4 PM

It will be held at the Street Audubon Nature Center, 115 Lameraux Road, Winter Haven, Fl 33884. A Ham Dinner with all the trimmings will be served at the center for only \$10.00 per person. Please support this program. It is one of our main fund raisers for the year. The chairmen of all our activities will be represented and you will receive a lot of information about our organization.

If you wish to help to make this program a success, there will be a planning meeting in the first part of October. If you wish to attend, just e-mail me at marvel.loftus@gmail.com or call me by phone: Home 863 324 9657, Cell 863 289 8188. To do this correctly, I will need people to help with the mailing, delivering invitations around the neighborhood, table decorations, cleaning and setting up and taking down, hostesses and servers of the dinner, parking lot attendants, items to raffle and of course, all the chairmen to set up their own displays. Please join me. Help and we will all enjoy the success of this 3rd Open House. Marvel

Whooping Cranes

by Marty Folk

October 9th, 7:00 PM at Chain of Lakes Center in Winter Haven.

Field Trip Schedule – 2006/2007

Sep 9, Sat, Lakeland Highlands Scrub. Two hikes, 2.0 miles and 0.8 mile. Bring lunch. Meet at 8 am at the gate located at the dead-end of Lakeland Highlands Road south of SR 540A. Should see rare Cristata Orchids and Florida Scrub Jay.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Sep 30, Sat, Turkey Creek for migrants. Black Point Drive, Playalinda Beach at Merritt Island NWR. Dixie Crossroads for early dinner. Meet at the Street Audubon Center at 6 am for carpooling. Bring drinks and lunch.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Oct 7, Sat, John H Chestnut County Park (SE corner of Lake Tarpon).
Hike 2 great trails, each about ½ mile and a third ¼ mile. Then on to Honeymoon Island S. P. for lunch and a 1 mile hike on Osprey Trail, Wildlife, migrants, shorebirds, etc. Meet at 6:30 am in the parking lot of Lake Mirror Center in Lakeland.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Oct 14, Sat, Hillsboro River State Park.
3 mile loop hike on Florida Trail, plus some of trail along river. Scenic, migrants. Bring drinks and lunch. Meet 7 am at Lake Mirror Center, Lakeland for carpooling.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Oct 28, Sat, Green Swamp, Auto Nature Safari.
Minimum hiking. Meet 8 am at Van Fleet Rails-to-Trails trailhead just below Polk City for carpooling. Bring lunch and drinks.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Nov 4, Sat, Pfundstein Road, Tiger Creek Nature Conservancy, Nature Hike.
About 2.5 miles. Meet 8 am at Street Audubon Center. Should be good for butterflies. Bring lunch and drinks. Meet at 8 am at the Street Audubon Center. Bring drinks and lunch.
Paul Fellers, 863-292-0486

Nov 11, Sat, Lake Marion Creek
2.5 mile hike (see 5 species of astor and pristine Snell Creek), and Osceola County School Boardwalk, 1 mile roundtrip to Reedy Creek in Poinciana. Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486

Field Trip Schedule - cont.

Nov 18, Sat, Disney Wilderness Preserve
3 mile nature hike to Lake Russell and more. Meet at 8 am at Street Audubon Center. Should still be some fall flowers and some good birds. Take lunch, drinks and \$2 fee per person.
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486

Nov 25, Sat, Lake Arbuckle State Forest
Hike of about 4.5 miles along and above Reedy Creek, along Lake Arbuckle, back to School Bus Road Requires moving of cars. Take drinks and lunch at Lake Godwin or cabin. Brown-headed Nuthatches, good possibility.
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486

Dec 16, Lakeland Christmas Bird Count
Dinner at Street Audubon Center. Call compiler, Paul Fellers, to participate.
Paul Fellers, 863-293-0486

**First Saturday Work Day
at Street Audubon Center**

The first Saturday of each month is WorkDay at the Street Audubon Center. Outside chores such as mowing, trimming, weed pulling and inside chores to include sweeping, dusting and general cleaning need to be done. To participate just showup from 9 til 1 and do what you can.

**Native Plant Sale****Saturday, October 21, 2006**

The Lake Region Audubon Society Native Plant Sale is Saturday, October 21st from 9 til 1. Anne Yasalonis, program coordinator for Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, will tell us how to successfully plant our new purchases. We will also have planting demonstrations by Sarah Kiefer, manager of The natives, Inc. nursery. We need home grown plants and lots of volunteers. These two things made the spring sale the best ever. We will have Florimulch for sale. Using this mulch is very good for the environment.

Come out and find your favorite native plant. Many to choose from for all soil conditions from dry to wet and sun to shade. If you can help set it up call Carrie Plair at 863-683-8094

**Lake Region Audubon
Nature Photography Contest**

Start to gather your best nature related photos for submission to the Lake Region Audubon Nature Photography Contest. Categories will be: animal, flower and landscape with age groups for each category. Strictly amateur photographers only. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2007. Winning photos will be announced at the Nature Faire in March 2007. Details will be published in the November/December issue of the Eagle's View.

Pizza and a Movie

Third Tuesday of each month

Mark your calendars for Oct 16th, Nov 20th and Dec 18th at 7:00 PM for Pizza and a Movie at the Street Audubon Center. For information contact Marvel Loftus at 863 324 9657.



Caracara
by Les Twining

2006 - 2007 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/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: Gina Lucas

Recording Sec: Liz Purnell 863.324.3181

Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul Anderson

Board Members: Charles Geanangel, Mae Hartsaw, William Karnofsky, Carrie Plaire, Paul Anderson, Paul Fellers, Elizabeth Purnell, Janet Anderson, Louise Lang, Marvel Loftus, Gil and Gina Lucas, 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.

Fall Warbler Migration Walks

The 2006 Fall Warbler Migration Walks at Saddle Creek, will begin Saturday August 19th, at 8 a.m., and continue through October 28th. The trail head is located just beyond the Polk County maintenance buildings and firing range at Saddle Creek Park. The walks typically last about four hours, but will vary depending on the number and variety of birds present. We will be looking for warblers, and a variety of song birds that are migrating south. Please bring binoculars, insect repellent, beverage, and wear comfortable shoes.

If there are any questions, call Bob Snow at (863) 644-4868 or e-mail: blsnow11@verizon.net

Lake Region Web Site

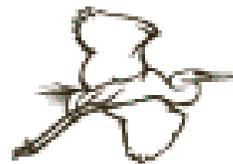
The printed version of the *Eagle's View* is in black and white. For a full color version, check it out on the Lake Region web site at www.lakeregion.net. The photographs are much nicer in full color. You will also find the latest schedules and other information. Rae Bourquein is the webmaster and she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

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: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Lake Region Audubon Society
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www.lakeregion.net

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Monday - Saturday, 9 - 3:00.

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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.

Feature Photo



This Snail Kite enjoyed lunch with Liz Lane, Ron Butts, Les Twining and Herman Moulden on Labor Day at Joe Overstation Station.

Photo by Herman

Submit your photo for the Feature Photo. Send to hmoul@verizon.net