



Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

Green “Swamp” and Fort DeSoto Field Trips Paul Fellers

Green “Swamp”

The day, March 31, 2007, was a warm one in the 80’s, and the Green Swamp was mostly green all right, but hardly a swamp (the reason for the quotation marks in the title). Rainfall has been pitiful these last few years (except, of course, the rains that came with the ‘04 hurricanes). Nevertheless, the 22 of us found some neat flowers, a few good birds, and lots of butterflies.



False Loosestrife by Ron Butts

A couple of stops along Rte. 33 yielded many Greeneyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), Tread Softly (*Cnidocolus stimulosus*) and an uncommon milkweed (*Asclepias humistrada*). About 300 yards into Southwest Florida Water Management’s 48,000-acre water retention area north of Rock Ridge Rd. along Main Grade, we found several Pine Hyacinth (*Clematis baldwinii*), one of my favorite wildflowers and some with their unique seed structures; the first of several dainty, pink *Stenandrium dulce* flowering plants; and both large showy *Viola septemloba*, some with blooms more than an inch across, and the smaller *Viola floridana*. At the second bridge over the Withlacoochee River, Swamp Rose (*Rosea palustris*) was blooming.

The 2 1/2 –mile loop hike on the north side of Main Grade with about 1 mile on an old tram trail produced fewer flowers than usual because of the drought. But there were lots of Wild Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), Partridge Berry (*Michella repens*), Pineland Daisies (*Chaptalia tomentosa*), Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) with its unusual drooping flowers, Narrow-leaved Violets (*Viola lanceolata*), and a single healthy High-bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*).

At stops along Main grade were some nice Bitterweed or Sneezeweed (*Helenium pinnatifidum*), Flax (*Linum floridanum*), and Thistle (*Cirsium* sp.), their purple blooms being excellent hosts for several species of butterflies, especially Palmedes Swallowtails.

Lunch was enjoyed under the huge Live Oak and Mulberry Trees at the old Stewart Homestead.

Off Powder Grade we were not able to find any blooming Grass Pink Orchids, but we did at least locate a species of White Ladies Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes* sp.). Lots of Sundew (*Drosera* sp.) and both Blue Butterwort (*Pinguicula caepulea*) and Yellow Butterwort (*P. lutea*) were in evidence, all of these being examples of carnivorous plants. A couple stands of Clubmoss (*Lycopodium cernuum*) were nice, an uncommon, ancient representative of the plant world.

A visit to a small pond with some water not far from the west gate on Main Grade had a few bright yellow blooms of False Loosestrife (*Ludwigia arcuata*) along the edge, a few large Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*) out in the water, and a small American Alligator on its far edge. A couple of final stops netted some previously staked-out Southern Blue Flag (*Iris virginica*) and Hooded Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia minor*).



Paul Eisenbrown and Linda Cooper with
Liz Lane in back by Mali Rafats

Some birds of note were a couple of Swallow-tail Kites, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, Carolina Chickadee and 6 Parula Warblers. Linda Cooper reported spotting 31 butterfly species including 4 swallowtails species (Palmedes Swallowtails numbered 31), 3 Variegated Fritillaries, Ceraunus Blue, 3 species of sulphurs, 6 Little Metalmarks (I noted 2 or 3 myself of this spectacular small butterfly), 52 Little Wood-satyr, Red-banded Hairstreak, lots of Pearl Crescents, American Lady, and 10 species of skippers (best being a Monk nectaring on a thistle).

In spite of it being so dry, we still managed once again to see quite a bit and enjoy our spring day in the woods.

Fort DeSoto Park, Spring Migration Birding

For the 20 plus folks making the effort to drive over to Mullet Key on Florida's West Coast April 21st, 2007 mostly to observe spring migrant birds, a real treat awaited. We landed in the middle of a "fall out" of birds where winds drove many trans-gulf migrants to the east and onto peninsular Florida beaches. It was great, with over a hundred species of birds counted by the group (my number was 97). The top highlight for me was enjoying lunch at the Fort's picnic area with rare male and female Cerulean Warblers enjoying their lunch overhead. There are only 600,000 of these birds left in the world. What a rush for a birder! Others may have thought their major highlight was watching in awe the numerous jewels of the North American bird world: about 15 Summer Tanagers (most of which were brilliant red males), 9 Scarlet Tanagers, 12 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (several males), 2 Blue Grosbeaks, and 30 Indigo Buntings (many bright blue males). Other outstanding warblers along with the Ceruleans were a pair of male Black-throated Greens (in the Australian Pines at the North Beach and first sighted by Linda Van Deman), 2 Blue-winged, 2 Tennessee, 2 male Black-throated Blue (at the Mulberry Tree area), Kentucky, and 10 Hooded.



Eastern Wood-Pewee by Ron Butts

Other good birds that day in checklist order were: 2 Reddish Egrets, 2 Roseate Spoonbills, 6 Redhead Ducks, (at the old Tierra Ceia Golf



Marbled Godwit by Les Twining

Course pond), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Piping Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Red Knot (at North Beach), 8 Black-hooded Parakeets, 2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (very late); great thrushes—3 Gray-cheeked, 2 Swainsons, Hermit, and 2 spectacular Wood Thrushes; 4 vireo species—8 White-eyed, Blue-headed, Yellow-throated, and 3 Red-eyed; and finally 20 Orchard Orioles (8 males), and 6 Baltimore Orioles (5 bright orange males). What a day!

Dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City for some of us wound up another super day in the field, this time with many of the most special birds that we may ever have the privilege to see. ***

Volunteer Opportunity

Creative individual or individuals desperately needed

Every year in the spring around Earth Day, LRAS is invited to participate in outdoor education events designed to educate the public about wildlife or the environment and showcase the work of the Audubon Society. The sponsoring organizations usually provide a large table, chairs and a location. We need a creative person to put together a bulletin board display to be used at these events. We have several displays but they are badly in need of upgrading. We also have PowerPoint equipment if you like working in that media. You would have help staffing the booth and transporting the materials to the site of the event. The board has authorized a budget of up to \$500 to purchase materials. This is a fun way to get involved in the work of the Audubon Society and meet some really interesting people. We really need your help on this project. Call Chuck Geanangel at (863)326-5748 for more information.

PLEASURES AND BENEFITS OF BIRDING

Bill Haddad

Birding is such an active and involved pastime that we don't always stop to think why, we enjoy it so much. I recently gave a birding program to a church group (non-birders) and that forced me to reflect on why we are so enamored of this pastime and just what benefits we derive from it. It did not take long to think of ten - and the reader can possibly think of more:

1. **ESCAPE.** Birding is an escape from increasing urbanization and the stress of modern life. It gets one out in the woods, or fields, or shore, or maybe just in the backyard. We relax and tend to forget our troubles.
2. **ENGAGING.** Birding engages our senses. For those of us who like the outdoors anyway, it makes hiking that much more enjoyable. We're using more than our feet - we're using our senses of sight and sound to the utmost. In my opinion, it tends to improve those senses.
3. **CHALLENGING.** There are a great number of bird species, and some look almost alike. They are not always in plain view and they don't often sit still, so it constantly challenges our skill at identification. We learn from books, tapes, other birders and in the field. However, we never totally master the sport. There is always room to improve and part of the pleasure of birding is always learning more.
4. **ACTION.** With the great variety and number of birds there is a lot of "action" in birdwatching. Even on the poorest days afield one sees some birds. This is not the case with other animals.
5. **HUNTING.** It must be admitted that birding gives us something of the primordial thrill of hunting. It involves many of the same skills as traditional hunting (such as habitat identification, stalking, etc.) and actually requires more skill in species identification. However, in birding we hunt with binoculars instead of a rifle.
6. **UNPREDICTABILITY.** Mostly because birds are so mobile, we never know what species we will see when afield. There is always the possibility of seeing a rare bird or a bird that experts say shouldn't be present in that area or at that time of year. After birding for some time, we all encounter these situations and we all remember them with pleasure. Some that come easily to mind are a Snow Bunting seen in Florida and a Pine Warbler high in the mountains of North Carolina. The latter was doubted by a group of local birders until my sighting was confirmed a few minutes later!
7. **AESTHETICS.** Obviously, many birds are beautiful in themselves and some have wonderful songs. Additionally, migration patterns put the birder in touch with the changes of season (even in Florida!) and being afield confronts one with the beauty and complexity of nature, including all sorts of flora and fauna.
8. **CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST.** Our remote ancestors of more than 100 years ago would have trouble recognizing the cities we live in, the appliances we use, our forms of transportation, etc. However, when we see a Red-winged Blackbird return north in the spring, observe a Winter Wren in a cold and damp Rhododendron thicket or hear the song of a Wood Thrush, for example, we are experiencing just what they saw and heard. Thus, we are not totally disconnected from the past.
9. **FRIENDSHIPS.** Because my talk was to a church singles group, I mentioned that birding, said to be the fastest growing sport in the United States, might be emerging as a good way to meet active members of the opposite sex and pointed out that birders are generally "good people." However, in the context of this article, the point applies in a broader way. Birding is an excellent way of meeting good and interesting people of all ages and sexes and single or married. While enjoying this sport, most of us have made new and lasting friendships.
10. **SHARING.** Not the least of the pleasures of birding is to introduce what was a previously unobserved world to the uninitiated. Only a minority will become birders but it is refreshing to observe their pleasure as they experience this great pastime. Additionally, we know that this is a good, if indirect, method of spreading the conservationist ethic. ***



Alligator at Circle B Bar
by Herman

Bird Club
2006-2007 Report
 Marvel Loftus

The 2006 - 2007 season is over. It doesn't seem possible that we made 19 trips this year. I thought everyone was great. The weather was good, but too windy sometimes. It is so wonderful to have such a large group so congenial and so thoughtful of each other. We had a record year, 191 species. Last year, 2005 to 2006, we only had 174 and in 2004 to 2005, we had 178 species. I won't type the list here, but if someone wants one just e-mail or phone, 863-324-9657. The one that stands out this year and never before is the Least Bittern. I know that we would probably get it if we go birding later in the year but we lucked out and found one at the Orlando Wetlands on March 22, 2007. We didn't get a Short-tailed Hawk fly over this year but Paul Fellers helped us out by seeing a Broad-wing at Fort DeSoto, April 5, 2007. On several trips we saw a hawk and had discussions on whether it was a Broad-wing. We could not decide and did not claim it. This was a great Sora year. We had them on several trips, Even Ginger Ramsbottom took a picture of a Sora on our last Fort DeSoto Trip. We went for years without seeing one and this year it was a different story. Piping Plover eluded us this year as well as the Long-billed Curlew. We only heard the Barred Owl but never set our eyes on one. The Brown-headed Nuthatch was in the same category, heard but not seen. Golden-crowned Kinglets were a good find by Bill Haddad and Betty Butcher at Gator Creek. The Purple Swamphen at STA-5 was beautiful and was a life bird for several us. The most remarkable find this year for most of us was the Bachman's Sparrow singing his heart out on Peavine Road on our way to Overstreet Landing. This also was a life bird for many. The only trip that probably didn't measure up was the Emerald Marsh trip. It was very windy and not much water. Purple Martins made that day. The most outstanding trip is hard to choose. Coming home from Brooker Creek Preserve on Hwy 60 Causeway was fantastic with the Horned Grebe, Oystercatcher and the Common Loon, just a few feet off shore. Couldn't have had a better view. Surprise, surprise, we saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on 3 different trips. Not on the ones that I thought we would see them. Shilo Marsh Road on Merritt Island was a great discovery and there was nothing like STA-5 in Clewiston. Tosohatchee was bigger than I thought. We have to devote a whole day for that trip next year. All in all it was a great year. I want to thank everyone for all their help and especially the great gift you gave to me on our last trip to Fort DeSoto. You are the ones that make this a great birding group. See you next year. The Organizational Meeting, as always, the first Thursday in November. It is also the first day in November. Look for places to bird and come with suggestions. That is how we plan for another great year. ***

The 2007 Florida Legislative Final Results

Charles Geanangel

The 2007 Legislative session is now history and I will summarize the best and the worst of what was approved in Tallahassee this year. Remember a special session is scheduled later on to deal with property taxes and of course Governor Crist must sign any bill to allow them to become law. That being said, here are the four best bills and the four worst bills according to the staff at Audubon of Florida.

Winners:

- A. The Legislature was generous to Water (and Land) funding projects totaling 734 million bucks. These projects include monies for the Florida Forever fund and restoration of the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee as well as numerous water projects.
- B. Making coastal armoring permits harder to obtain and improving protection for shore dependent wildlife. Basically we're talking about limiting seawalls along the gulf and ocean shorelines.
- C. A bill which expands the designation of the Myakka River as a wild and scenic area.
- D. A fairly complicated bill which will allow local governments to designate growth in property taxes for purchase of conservation lands. For counties without an environmental land purchasing ordinance this will be a chance to acquire much needed funds for land purchases.

Losers:

- A. A bill that would allow special incentives for private funding of new roads which would create greater incentives for sprawl-inducing roads to nowhere.
- B. A bill removing major growth management decisions from State oversight. This will impact mostly the Miami-Dade area but we all can be affected.
- C. Creation of a fertilizer task force which will most likely delay the state from addressing fertilizer related issues for years. We need to act quickly on this problem, not study it further.
- D. A bill limiting the duration of moratoria counties can place on rock mining even if those moratoria are based on sound environmental concerns.

A special thanks to our lobbyists, Charles Lee and Eric Draper, for helping good bills get passed and either defeating bad bills or changing them so they are not so environmentally harmful. Charles Lee in particular has been a strong voice protecting the environment for the past 35 years. ***

THE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

Marvel Loftus

On Saturday, March 24, 2007, Lake Region Audubon showed it's appreciation to all of it's volunteers by hosting a free lunch. It was well attended and it was a beautiful day at the Street Nature Center. The food was delicious, thanks to Ann Pinner, Volunteer Chairperson, who went to Peebles Bar-b-cue and picked up the Bar-b-cue Pork and the Cole Slaw and Potato Salad. Again our volunteers came through and helped by setting up, serving, clean up and donating cookies for dessert. The ones that couldn't make it, missed all the camaraderie and the good food.

Although food is important, the most important thing will always be the volunteers. Lake Region Audubon can not operate without volunteers and it can not do enough to show it's appreciation for all the time and effort volunteers put into this organization. Thinking of time and effort, we recognized one of our most outstanding volunteers, Mae Hartsaw. For over 30 years she has been dedicated to Lake Region Audubon and to show our thanks and appreciation for all her effort we gave her a plaque of recognition. It really is just a small token for all the hard work that Mae Hartsaw has done for us and I am certain she will continue to offer her help.. She was very surprised when she received this recognition and it was my pleasure to present it to her.

Lake Region Audubon certainly hopes that everyone will continue to offer their time and energy at the Street Nature Center. With this help, no matter how small, it keeps the Nature Center open and running. Sally Gilmore has offered to help with obtaining volunteers at the Nature Center 9:00 to 3:00 every day, except Sunday. Why don't you surprise her and give her a call at 863 299 7123. ***

**Mae Hartsaw**

To view the newsletter in color visit us at www.lakeregion.net

Editors note: This newsletter is made possible by all who contribute to it and to the members who help edit to maintain the quality. The following persons all assist in this newsletter: Linda Cooper, Paul Fellers, Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky, Bill Haddad, Tony Catalano, Les Twining, Ron Butts, Norm Brewer, Marvel Loftus, Paul and Janet Anderson. Thanks to them and all others who may assist.

Natural Florida 2007 Photo Contest

To promote the natural resources of Florida and to encourage the citizens of Florida to use and enjoy their natural resources, The Lake Region Audubon Society is sponsoring a Natural Florida Photography Contest.

All photographs must be taken in Florida during the calendar year of 2007.

Photographs must be of natural Florida with no man-made structures or non-native animals or plants. Photographs of captive animals or pets are not allowed.

Levels:

A. 18 years of age and older - anyone who has had their 18th birthday (persons turning 18 during 2007 may enter either level.)

B. 17 years of age and younger- anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday.

Categories:

Judges will assign photographs to the appropriate category.

General requirements:

Photographs must be taken in the State of Florida during the year 2007.

Enhancements to the image are limited to those commonly used in conventional photographic darkrooms.

Images may be cropped, but must be at least 1024x680 pixels in size or a maximum of 8 inch x 12 inch print.

Images may be submitted in digital (jpg or tif on a cd) or printed format.

For Level A a Five Dollar fee will be charged for up to five entries. The sixth and additional entries will be assessed a fee of Two Dollars each. There will be no fee for Level B.

Details will be available on the Lake Region Audubon web site at www.lakeregion.net . Prizes will be awarded.

LRAS Photo Contest 2007 Entry Form

Photographer information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Audubon Member: Yes _____ No _____

Level: A _____ B _____

Level A only: Entry fee \$5.00 up to five photographs and \$2.00 for each additional photograph.

Make check payable to Lake Region Audubon Society and mail with photographs to:

LRAS Photo Contest 2007
3101 Young Court
Lakeland, Fl 33803

Number of photographs entered _____ Total fee _____

List the first five photographs below. List additional photographs on a separate sheet of paper and attach to this form. List file name if a digital file. Also attach this information to the back of each photograph.

Table with 3 columns: Title, Location Taken, File name. Includes five rows of blank lines for data entry.

Great Deal!!

Have we got a deal for You!! A new membership with Lake Region, Florida and National Audubon is available for only \$20 for the first year (renewals will be \$35 ... still a great deal!). In addition to all membership privileges, you also get the Audubon magazine and the Florida and Lake Region newsletters.

The \$20 initial membership would make a great gift for a niece or nephew graduating from school, a new retiree or a friend that enjoys nature. Just fill out the membership application in this newsletter, enclose a check made out to National Audubon Society for \$20 and send it to Gary McCoy, PO Box 93287, Lakeland, FL 33804.

A great byproduct of securing your Audubon membership through Lake Region Audubon Society is that National Audubon credits our chapter with the initial \$20!!! So you would be helping Lake Region provide our local programs to the community by using this first time membership method. ***

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.

Sally Gilmore, 863-299-7123

Ann Pinner, 956-2374



Brooke Pottery
223 North Kentucky Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801
phone: 863-688-6844
www.brookepottery.com

**Street Audubon Center
Work Day**

The first Saturday of each month is WorkDay at Street Audubon Center. There is much work to be done to keep the center operational. This work spans the range of very light to very heavy. Trail clearing, tree cutting, trash hauling, dusting, sweeping, window cleaning or providing a cool drink for those doing the heavy work. We need you!

What do you have to do? Just show up at 9:00 am on the first Saturday of each month and plan to stay til noon or one. Pizza and soft drinks will be served to all volunteers at 11:30. A free LRAS T-shirt will be available on your first volunteer workday

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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.

Nature Faire Photos by Tony Catalano



Tentative Schedule to Nov 03

Aug 18, Saddle Creek, Fall Migration Walks each Saturday through October

Sep 01, Nature Center Work Day

Sep 12, Board of Directors meeting

Sep 29, Turkey Creek, Black Point Dr, Merritt Island, Paul Fellers

Oct 06, Nature Center Work Day
Hillsboro River State Park, Paul Fellers

Oct 08, Pizza and Film
Secrets of the Crocodile Cave

Oct 10, Board of Directors meeting

Oct 13, Photo Walk at Circle B Bar, Reiner Munguia

Oct 20, Little Manatee State Park, Paul Fellers

Oct 24, Open House envelope stuffing at SAC 9AM

Oct 27, Saddle Creek, Fall Migration Walk
Native Plant Sale, Carrie Plair

Nov 01, Bird Club Organization meeting

Nov 03, Nature Center Work Day

Check the LRAS web site at www.lakeregion.net for times and changes

2006 - 2007 OFFICERS

Steering Committee:

- Bill Karnofsky 863-324-5282
billkarnofsky@verizon.net
- Chuck Geanangel 863-326-5748
hoatzin@tampabay.rr.com
- Marvel Loftus - 863-324-9657
marvel.loftus@gmail.com
- Paul Anderson 863-965-8241 jandr@aol.com
- Gary McCoy 863-853-2643 garynfay60@aol.com

Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul Anderson

Board Members: Gil Lucas, Charles Geanangel, Mae Hartsaw, William Karnofsky, Carrie Plaire, Paul Anderson, Paul Fellers, Elizabeth Purnell, Janet Anderson, Louise Lang, Marvel Loftus, Gary McCoy, Herman Moulden, Mali Rafats, Liz Purnell and Ann Pinner

- VP/Programs: Marvel Loftus
- 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
- Recording Sec: Mali Rafats 863-207-2104,
malirafats@hotmail.com
- Corresponding Sec: Liz Purnell 863-324-3181

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.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY [make check payable to National Audubon Society]

This membership automatically enrolls you in the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida, and Lake Region Audubon Society.

You will receive the publications from each organization:

- National Audubon Society - Audubon Magazine
- Audubon of Florida - Florida Naturalist
- Lake Region Audubon Society - The Eagle's View



Lake Region Audubon

Chapter E 25
7XCH

Cost: 1st year - \$20.00* Yearly Renewal: \$35.00

*Lake Region will receive all of the first year's dues. Thereafter it receives no direct portion of your annual dues.

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP ONLY [make check payable to Lake Region Audubon Society]

- This membership enrolls you in Lake Region Audubon Society.
- You will receive the local newsletter, *The Eagle's View*, which is published 5 times a year.

Cost: 1st year - \$20.00 Yearly Renewal: \$20.00*

* your first year's dues and each renewal dues goes 100% to support all Lake Region Audubon's programs and the publication of the newsletter, *The Eagle's View*.

MBR NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Save costs, send newsletter by e-mail

Please mail your check and this completed application to:

Lake Region Audubon Society
Attn: Gary McCoy, Membership Chrm
P. O. Box 93287
Lakeland, FL 33804-3287

If this is a gift membership for the person named above, please show your name here:

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

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

Les Twining photographed this King Rail at Circle B Bar on May 27th.

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