



Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

Colt Creek State Park Butterfly Survey

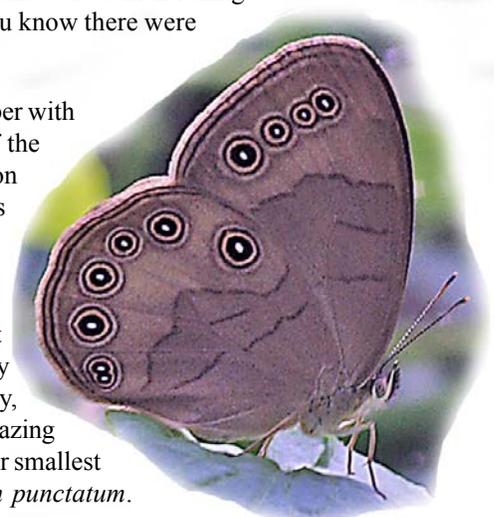
Linda F. Cooper

We did not imagine the treasure-trove of butterflies awaiting us at Polk's newest state park when we began our one-year butterfly survey in January 2007. Awaiting us not only in species diversity but also in numbers of butterflies – this is an incredible park for butterflies! Most months we fielded two teams but on occasion had three. We were free to roam anywhere in the territories assigned to us by survey leader Buck Cooper. Butterflies are solar-powered. As the months warmed butterflies began to increase. In mid-May the teams totaled over 1200 butterflies and 61 species on a single day. The heat of August and September brought the two highest totals – August 2599 and September 4111 and 58 species both months. Drought conditions allowed us to reach all areas of the park - not possible in wet years.

At times the air was saturated with yellow butterflies – large, medium and small sulphurs - as they jostled each other at mud-puddling sites, rising in the air when disturbed. In areas of Senna, one of their host plants, they gathered to court, mate and lay eggs, again filling the air. There were hundreds and hundreds of sulphurs. When the bird teams started mentioning how distracted they were by butterflies while trying to do their bird surveys you know there were LOTS of butterflies.

Here are a few of the highlights. Long-tailed Skipper numbers exploded in October with over 300 of these green-backed skippers recorded. Southern Dogface, one of the rarer sulphurs, was found in small numbers in five different months. Question Mark was easily found most months with 22 of them in August. Swallowtails were well represented with 7 species, most common Black and Palamedes; 8 species of sulphurs, with huge numbers of Cloudless and Sleepy Orange; 6 species of hairstreaks with Gray and Red-banded the most common, 2 species of blues; 13 species of brushfoots with White Peacock and Gulf Fritillary the most common; both emperors and 4 species of browns with Carolina Satyr absolutely thick at times (over 500 in September). Skipper species totaled 30 with Fiery, Southern Skipperling, Long-tailed and Tropical Checkered leading the way. An amazing sight in one of the pastures in September was over 100 Southern Skipperlings, our smallest skipper, happily nectaring on a single bush of Dotted Smartweed *Polygonum punctatum*. This tiny skipper had found a nectar source as tiny as it is.

see page 2



Appalachian Brown
Linda Cooper

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We have really made the process as simple as possible and hope you enjoy receiving all future editions in full vibrant color. By participating, you will help us save over \$3,000 per year in publication costs

Thistles are a big draw for butterflies and moths. If you find a thistle patch, settle back and watch the activity! One huge thistle patch located near the parking area kept the teams very busy for most of several mornings as we struggled to simply record all the activity. Thistle is also the host plant for one of our most beautiful tiny butterflies – Little Metalmark. In an area near the northern boundary



Gemmed Satyr
by Linda Cooper

of the park is a small pond tucked in the pine flatwoods. We have named it Metalmark Pond. It is an area of limestone outcroppings and lots of *Cirsium horridulum*. Several sunny afternoons we found over 100 Little Metalmarks in this small area around the pond. It is a fantastic sight to see these tiny coppery sprites nectaring at flowers several times larger than they are or to see them tucked down in thistles laying eggs. Complete surprises were finding 4 Banded Hairstreaks, rarely seen in Polk, in April; Appalachian Browns and Gemmed Satyrs, shade-loving butterflies with specific habitat requirements, found in good numbers for half of the year. This is the only place in Polk we know of to find these species.

We found a huge (53.8 inches in diameter) Bald Cypress estimated to be 448 years old in one of the hardwood swamps. Celestial Lilies *Nemastylis floridana* were found in good numbers in several areas of the park. These lilies bloom mid to late afternoon. If you pass them early in the day you are unaware of their existence. Many wildflowers enthusiasts have never seen them yet we recorded more than 100 individual plants.

energy and money to take a yearlong look at butterfly populations at Colt Creek. We wish to thank ALL the volunteers for making this a comprehensive look at what species occur here. Thanks to Scott Spaulding, park manager, and his small staff for their cooperation and to DEP staff from nearby state

Twenty-six volunteers came out to survey, donating 843 hours of their time, energy and money to take a yearlong look at butterfly populations at Colt Creek. We wish to thank ALL the volunteers for making this a comprehensive look at what species occur here. Thanks to Scott Spaulding, park manager, and his small staff for their cooperation and to DEP staff from nearby state parks for joining us on two surveys. Thanks also to the bird survey teams for their interest and help with the surveys.



Little Metalmark
by Linda Cooper



Little Metalmark
by Linda Cooper

We know of no other place in Polk to see the species diversity or the sheer numbers of butterflies as are found at Colt Creek State Park. We ended the survey with 79 species, almost half of the species found in Florida, and more than 18,000 butterflies for 2007! You do not need access to the entire park to find butterflies. Within a few hundred yards of the parking lot you can find enough to keep you busy most of the morning including some rare butterflies.

The park has been added to our North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July counts so we will be there every July. We welcome participation. Come on out and join the fun!

Senator Paula Dockery has been instrumental in shepherding this park into public ownership. All of Polk owes her a debt of gratitude.

For more information on the park see the September – October 2007 *Eagles View* newsletter and page three of this newsletter for the bird survey article by Chuck Geanangel. You can also check out the park's website at <http://www.floridastateparks.org/coltcreek/>



Southern Dogface
by Linda Cooper

Colt Creek Bird Census Report

Charles Geanangel

About fifty members and friends of the Lake Region Audubon Society over the course of 2007 counted birds and butterflies on the newly established 5,087 acre Colt Creek State Park located 16 miles north of Lakeland in central Florida's Polk County. The cooperation of the staff and the dedication of the volunteers made for an extremely comprehensive count. Our purpose was to establish



Fog in the Pine Woods
by Herman

a baseline data report for birds and butterflies living on the property at the Parks inception. The Park was divided into 4 areas of about 1250 acres each. Each month four teams of usually four volunteers per team would spend the day counting birds and butterflies in each of the territories. One additional team of experienced lepidopterists had the responsibility for the butterflies while the other teams went out in the field monthly to census all of the birds seen and heard. These numbers are listed at the end of this report. The butterfly totals are reported separately.

Certainly most of the birds present in the area of the Green Swamp were found here in substantial numbers. Although no attempt was made to locate nesting birds, their presence during the appropriate nesting season was proof that breeding did occur. Brown-headed Nuthatches, Eastern Bluebirds, Pine Warblers, Swallow-tailed Kites, Summer Tanagers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Yellow-throated Warblers are among a few of the breeding birds found in

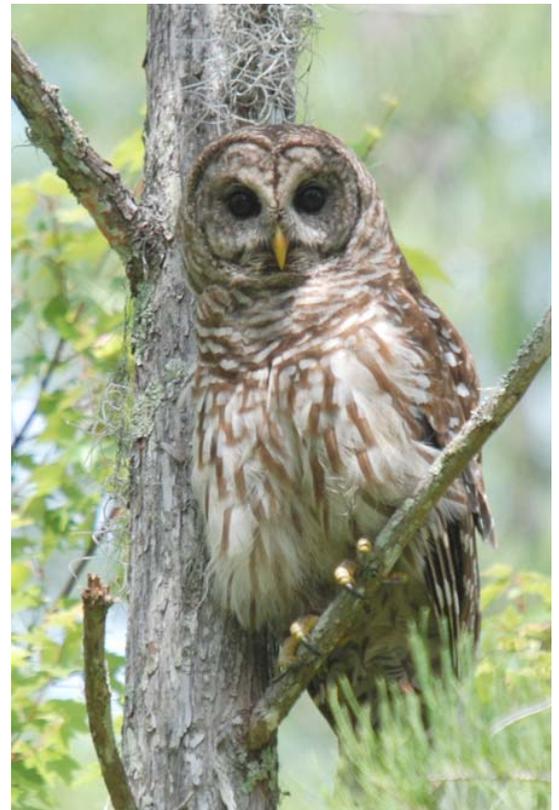
the Park. Birdwatchers hoping to add to their Florida bird lists will find the Park a good spot to easily add quality to their lists.

In all 155 species of birds were found which is surprisingly high given the scarcity of many habitats. With so few lakes, streams and marshes, the water birds, marsh birds and shorebirds were in short supply. Only 6 duck species of the 18 or so normally found in the County and only 7 of our nearly 20 species of shorebirds were recorded. Raptors were much better represented with all of the locally occurring species located including two very rare sightings of an out of range Crested Caracara and an even rarer Mississippi Kite. Of the wading birds only the Roseate Spoonbill was missing along with the two bitterns. We had a poor fall warbler migration at nearby Saddlecreek Park this season yet at Colt Creek we found 24 of the 32 expected wood warblers including the exceedingly rare Nashville Warbler. The strength of the Park is the birds of fields and woodlands. Birds like the Philadelphia Vireo, Cerulean Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow were recorded. Only the expected but rare Blue Grosbeak was not found on the census.

Some of the birds in short supply were Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bobwhite, Northern Flicker, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Egret, Ground Dove, and Red-tailed Hawk. Urban birds such as the European Starling, Rock Pigeon, House Sparrow, White-winged Dove, Eurasian Collared Dove, Muscovy Duck and Mallard were understandingly scarce but the small numbers of the others remain a mystery.

Twenty years in the future when this count is redone, researchers can look back at what the property was like bird wise and see how the Parks stewardship has fared. Because birds are great indicators of environmental health, just looking at the mix of species and their comparative numbers can tell how their restoration plans was working. Introduction of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers to the Long-leafed Pine woods and enhanced habitat for Bobwhite and wintering sparrows should be a priority. I wish them well.

Team Leaders were **Buck & Linda Cooper**, Haines City, Butterflies; **Chuck Geanangel**, Winter Haven, Area #1; **Pete Timmer**, Lake Alfred, Area #2; **Roy Morris**, Lakeland, Area #3; **Paul Fellers**, Winter Haven, Area #4.



Barred Owl
by Herman

More Fall Field Trips 2007

By Paul Fellers

Little Manatee State Park

Little Manatee State Park was thoroughly scouted on October 26 by the writer, Don Van Deman, and David Brooke (a spectacular birding trip; see last Newsletter). The actual trip on November 3rd attracted a good group of 16 birders for the 3-mile loop nature trail, or about half of a longer 6-mile loop hike. This turned out to be an excellent new experience. To gain entrance to the trail, a visit to the main gate to acquire the current combination code is necessary as the trailhead is about a mile distant. For about the first mile and a half, the trail follows along the river, but unfortunately not next to the water for the most part, and it is a pretty little river. This first half is quite picturesque with many large oaks, but unfortunately it had few birds; although, a week earlier migrants here had been abundant. At about the half-way point, the trail intersects Cypress Creek: beautiful, clear, shallow, swift-running, about 10' wide, and sandy-bottomed. It was here at this resting place that a couple of people bringing up the rear came into view and said "Guess what we found?" We were pleasantly surprised by the appearance of Jim and Barbara Olmsted, late, but having the will to make the hike. Good for them!

The return trail meanders through mostly xeric conditions, some with Sand Pines. In the moist areas we found several Spider Orchids (*Habenaria odontopetala*), Butterfly Orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) in the oaks but not in bloom, luxuriant Virgin's Bower (*Clematis catesbyana*), Hempweed (*Mikania* sp.), and Beautyberry or French Mulberry (*Callicarpa americana*). In the drier areas were a few Blazing Star (*Liatris* species), Goldenaster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*), Yellow-star Grass (*Hypoxis juncea*), lots of Hog Plum (*Ximeria americana*), and a bush akin to Myrtle-leaved Holly of north Florida, but not?.

Some of our better birds along the trail were a pair of Bald Eagles, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks (one zooming through the woods, the other migrating), 2 Red-shouldered and 2 Red-tailed Hawks, an unexpected Royal Tern flyover, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, the first 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers of the fall, Yellow-throated Warbler and male Black-and-White Warbler.

Following lunch in the interior of the park, we hiked down to the river where there were some gorgeous Climbing Aster (*A. carolinianus*) clumps in full bloom. Experiencing the river close-up by being able to stand on a sandbar in the river was special. On our short hike back to the cars, the spotting of a Red-headed Woodpecker in the dead trees (just where a good friend of the family who frequents the park, Cathy Moore, said it would be) was a great way to end our visit.

Lake Arbuckle State Forest

I was very pleased to have 5 hikers join me on November 10th for the longest hike of the year, about a 5-miler at Lake Arbuckle State Forest. We parked a car on down School Bus Road where the secondary trail rejoins the road, and where we would be several hours later. Temperatures were perfect starting in the 50's and getting up to the mid-70's with sunny skies. The trail had been devastated by the 2004 hurricanes, but the Florida Trail folks did a great job making it useable again. The trail along Reedy Creek was as gorgeous as ever, much of it about 20' above the creek. A few Climbing Aster (*A. carolinianus*) were blooming at the creek, but lots of Scrub Holly (a variety of American Holly *Ilex opaca*) was spectacular with luxuriant fruit varying from yellow to orangish to red. A single American Robin, the first of the fall, was enjoying the berries. A couple late-blooming endangered Scrub Blazing Star (*Liatris ohlingerae*) were by the trail along with some Palafoxia (*P. feayi*), and abundant Garberia (*G. heterophylla*).

In a lush sylvan setting near the lake complete with a tiny rivulet, we came upon a nice mixed wintering flock of birds that included a gorgeous male Black-throated Green Warbler first spotted by Liz Lane. A Blue-headed Vireo, pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 6 Pine Warblers, male Black-and-white Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, E. Phoebe and White-eyed Vireo were the rest of the flock.

Hiking along pristine Lake Arbuckle for about 1 ½ miles was awesome. The lake was beautiful blue with heavily wooded Avon Park



Don Van Deman (kneeling), Liz Lane, Lois Smith and Paul Fellers at Lake Godwin, Lake Arbuckle Ridge State Forest on Nov 10. Photo by David Brooke

More Fall Field Trips 2007

Air Force Range across the water and more than one adult Bald Eagle floating overhead from time to time. A ways from the lake we observed a pair of cooperative Brown-headed Nuthatches. At the point where the trail left the lake, we came upon a bevy of Zebra Heliconian butterflies nectaring on Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*). Also here were several wild grapefruit trees, one of which was heavy with unblemished fruit. Most of us partook of the fruit which was certainly on the sour side but not overly bitter.

On the trail back to the vehicles were some beautiful specimens of Yellow Buttons (*Balduina angustifolia*). Late lunch was enjoyed by a tired but happy group at a rickety picnic table at picturesque Lake Godwin on the west side of School Bus Road. Our day in the woods ended with a spectacular fly-over of a Merlin 50' over our heads as we were exiting the lake's small boardwalk.



Turkey Creek Sanctuary

Palm Bay, Oct 6. David Brooke, Betty Butcher, Liz Lane, Linda Van Deman and Dan Van Deman. Photo

Snell Creek

A late fall hike we've been doing for several years has been to Snell Creek Access Point to Lake Marion Creek Management Area primarily to view a spectacular show of several aster species. This November 17th was no different, in fact, the tall *Aster elliotii* full of violet-purple blooms at the trail's end in the wet area were the best ever, and the butterflies also were happy, especially the big Eastern Tiger Swallowtails. Other asters that we noted were Climbing Aster (*A. carolinianus*), Bushy Aster (*A. dumosus*), White-topped Aster (*A. reticulata*), and Goldenaster which is not even an aster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*). Big numbers of Yellow Beggar-ticks (*Bidens mitis*) were also in the moist area in full sun. Perhaps the showiest flower of the 2 1/2-mile loop hike was a couple of scarlet-red Cardinal Flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*) in water near Snell Creek. Several Spider Orchids (*Habenaria odontopetala*) were in the moist woody area at the end of the trail. We also noticed some nice clumps of non-blooming Butterfly Orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) in the big oaks. A few late blooming Blazing Star (*Liatris* sp.) and Paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosum*) were along the trail as were Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), Skullcap (*Scutellaria* sp.) and some Florida Holly (*Ilex cassine*) with lots of red berries.

We enjoyed lunch at the Osceola County School Nature Center and boardwalk near Poinciana. It's a treat to actually have lunch at picnic tables. The boardwalk hike was mostly uneventful, but the Florida Holly trees were fruiting nicely and the ferns looked OK, even though there was no water. Birds of note seen on the first hike were 3 adult Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, pair of Sandhill Cranes, 2 Barred Owls (heard), 2 Belted Kingfishers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, 4 House Wrens, and 21 American Robins. At the boardwalk our best bird was a winter record of Parula Warbler; also there were Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and 3 Pine Warblers. In all 43 bird species were seen for the day.

Tiger Creek

The 2 1/2-mile hike at Tiger Creek's Pfundstein Rd. was well attended with 15 of us on November 24th. This hike was substituted for one scheduled at the Disney Wilderness Preserve which was closed down for whatever reason. Along the trail were still some Blazing Star (*Liatris* sp.), Paintbrush (*Carphephorus corymbosum*), Honeycomb Head (*Balduina angustifolia*), and Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium* sp.). At the little bridge over Patrick Creek were 2 glorious Climbing Aster (*A. carolinianus*) plants which attracted several Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, including the dark-colored dimorphic (meaning 2 forms) female, several Zebra Heliconians, and a Red-banded Hairstreak spotted by Linda Cooper. Wireweed (*Polygonella fibriata*) was abundant and the spike-like racemes were full of mostly pinkish blooms. In the damp woods were several Spider Orchids (*Habenaria odontopetala*). As usual here, birds were rather sparse, but a highlight was watching a mature Bald Eagle fly over with nesting material in its talons. In all, 3 Bald Eagles were sighted; some other birds were 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Black-and-white Warbler. It was a good ending to a very busy fall field trip schedule. Hope to see you on the trail.

LRAS Christmas Bird Count 2006-2007

Paul Fellers

By dawn of December 15th, my team of Bob Snow and myself were extremely happy with our pairs of both the big owls: first Barred, then Great-horned, both pairs hooting nicely. That day saw a total of 42 birders (including 2 feeder watchers) out and about counting birds in a 15-mile-diameter circle with roughly the following parameters: on the north, Tenoroc State Preserve; south, Bartow; east, western Winter Haven; west, western Lakeland. Two new species for the count were Carolina Chickadee (found by Liz Lane by her Lakeland home where she has had them for several months), and Broad-winged Hawk observed and photographed by Larry Lane and Don and Linda Van Deman for perhaps Polk's 6th or so record. In all, 139 species were recorded for a very good count (if the Canada Goose on Lake Morton is counted). Weather for the day ended up being okay but was really wet in the a.m. from the previous night's rain, and nature put on a spectacular show if you happened to be in the Eagle Lake area at about 5 p.m. when a gorgeous rainbow over the entire eastern sky developed.

Some other birds of note were: 3 Common Loons (Lake Arietta), 6 Horned Grebes (Pete Timmer and Harold Browning watched them fly in to Lake Arietta), 2,886 American White Pelicans (most teams had some), 57 Brown Pelicans (6 teams had at least 1), 370 Anhingas (perhaps enough to be tops in the nation), a whopping 1,123 Glossy Ibis (for this formerly really scarce species), an amazing 23 Roseate Spoonbills (no fewer than 5 teams), 509 Wood Storks (not endangered in our county), 171 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (most at Circle B Bar Reserve where they have bred), an unprecedented 43 Northern Pintail ducks all at Circle B Bar; 34 Gadwalls, 127 American Wigeon (excellent number of this uncommon duck), really rare Redhead duck (1 each, 2 teams), 13,705 Lesser Scaup (most of this huge number on Lake Arietta), 2,811 Ruddy Ducks (most on Lakes Ariana and Arietta), 70 Bald Eagle (36 adult, 34 immature, and every party recorded at least 1), 6 Sharp-shinned and 8 Cooper's Hawks, a single covey of 10 N. Bobwhites along Auburndale's Rails-to-trail, 105 Purple Gallinule (most on Lakeland's lakes and probably enough for a high for all U. S.), 61 Limpkins (all parties except 1, and probably enough for the nation's high), 287 Sandhill Cranes (a count high for us), 4 Black-necked Stilts (an uncommon count species), 4 Stilt Sandpipers (Circle-Bar-B), 2 Royal Terns (Lakeland's Lake Hollingsworth), 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (at feeders: 4 males at Joe Misiaszek's and 2 at May Hartsaw's), 3 Western Kingbirds (Tenoroc), 21 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (continuing the unhappy downtrend of this sprightly little bird), only 8 of the once-common White-eyed Vireo; the following good warblers: 3 Orange-crowned, N. Parula, American Redstart (a male at Saddle Creek Park), and 3 Prairie; Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird (first one in years, was at Marian and John Ryan's feeder!) 2 Baltimore Orioles, and finally 25 House Finches at Cee Jay's Nursery.

It's very difficult to believe, but this is my 33rd count as compiler. We all headed back at the end of the day to the Nature Center where Donna Fellers had supper waiting. Thank you so much Donna. I was particularly partial to the cherry-chocolate cake with the cherry-chocolate chip ice cream. The round-up went off very well with Linda Cooper recording. Thanks Linda. Of course, there was the usual excitement of the more unusual birds (not found on the checklist) being revealed at the end. Everyone is to be congratulated once again for a great effort that produced another fine count.

Perhaps One of Nature's North American Last Hurrahs

Paul Fellers

Winding up a great day of birding the phosphate mines of southern Polk and Hillsboro Counties on November 24th, '07, Don and Linda Van Deman and I experienced a birding event of a lifetime. We had already observed almost every hawk and allied species including Bald Eagle on nest, 17 Northern Harriers, Sharp Shinned, 2 Coopers, 10 Red-shouldered, 14 Red-tailed, 7 American Kestrels, and Merlin; 12 duck species including 4,700 Blue-winged Teal, 2,200 Ring-necked Ducks, 25 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, N. Pintail; 2 very late Barn Swallows; and a bevy of other birds. To get back to the big happening, we were driving up the dike of the final settling pond of the day at 4-Corners Mine in Hillsboro County just below Fort Lonesome when we noted quite a few Tree Swallows. However, when we reached the top, the sight that greeted our eyes was right out of *The Birds*. Out over the large sea of high grasses in shallow water in the southwest corner of the huge pond were myriad Tree Swallows feeding on insects. We were in awe at the sight of all those twisting, turning aerobatic birds. For a quick assessment of one part of the scene, I estimated 50,000 birds counting by 1,000's. After driving about 200 yards down the dike, we saw birds filling the sky above us and down along the high dike. Don noted a large grayish patch about a hundred yards away at the bottom of the dike. We were amazed to see that it was a solid patch of birds about 30' by 200', and it was indeed a sight to behold when they all lifted off the sand in unison and then later settled back. Overhead, huge portions of the birds would form giant swirls. We wondered how all of these birds zooming about kept from colliding, but they navigated without mishap. Some birds populated the entire mile or so area of the dike, even a big section with open water. We had to leave, so we didn't see where they roosted for the night. But as we started for home, we were all in a state of wonderment at what we had witnessed, certainly one of the last hurrahs of living nature in North America, and we were there! How many individual birds did we see? – Our estimate: ¼ to ½ million!

ICE or NO ICE

Chuck Geanangel

In the 19th century one of the great hopes for explores was the discovery of a passage way across the top of the North American continent from eastern Canada to the American west coast. Many books documenting the attempt to find this tantalizing north passage have been written telling about the hardships of these hardy explorers, many who lost their lives. Their tales of starvation and death by freezing were chaff for the newspapers of the day. For centuries they were all defeated by the ice and the cold. It wasn't until 1903 that Roald Amundsen successfully navigated that legendary route but it took him two and one half years to accomplish the deed. Ships coming from New England and Europe that wanted to trade with the cities of western North America had to travel thousands of miles around Cape Horn in South American and back up the west coast, a dangerous journey that typically took months to complete.

Consequently, recent announcements by the National Snow and Ice Data Center located at the University of Colorado that Artic sea ice was at record low levels came as a surprise The reported ice levels were so low that in September, 2007 the fabled Northwest Passage was completely open for the first time in human memory. In other words, a regular oceangoing vessel could have made the trip from New York City to Seattle, ice-free in a matter of a few days.

If this trend continues, in a few years container ships could travel the northern sea lanes every summer and by 2030 the adventurous could sail the Arctic Ocean to the North Pole and back with no danger of sea ice.

Other more sinister events are possible. Melting sea ice is fresh water and the chemistry and density of the Arctic Ocean will change. The mechanics of ocean currents are poorly understood and our Gulf Stream may be affected. The Greenland ice shield may partially melt and sea levels would raise world wide. Predictions of one meter (3 feet) by 2100 are common. Imagine the impact on South Florida. Weather over the globe will become unstable and agriculture will be affected. The most chilling prediction is that there is little we can do in the short term, and beyond 2100 things will get worse quickly.

Global warming and climate change are real and arguing about who is to blame is not productive any more. Time is on our side and we can still ameliorate the worst problems. To do nothing, knowing what we now know, will leave our grandchildren in great peril. Is that an option?

Audubon Adventures - Update

Bill Karnofsky

A special thanks to the following members who quickly responded to the note in the last issue of the Eagle's View which reported were were in the red on this project for the very first time. As a result, we are now in the black.

Thank you:

Katherine Duval

Edward E. Etheredge

Evelyn Hoog

Lakeland Christian School

Lynn Powell

James Wanner

Circle B Bar Reserve

Circle B Bar Reserve will be open for two one day hikes on Feb 23rd and on April 12th. Most of the trails should be open. Nature Center construction is progressing well.

Membership Meeting

The March 12, 2008 meeting at Street Audubon Center will be a General Membership Meeting. Officers will be elected. Time of the meeting is 7:00 PM

Bill Reed

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

An alternative form of membership is local membership in Lake Region Audubon Society only. You will receive the local, "Eagles View" newsletter and all of your \$20 fee will be used locally. Make the check out to Lake Region Audubon Society and mail to the same address.

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, 863-956-2374

**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.

A Dry Future for Polk County?

Charles Geanangel

No, I'm not talking about the current drought, bad as it is. I'm talking about life after 2013 when the Water Management District's restrictive new water use rules take affect. At that point new developments will have to use alternative sources of water to supply their homes, farms, and businesses because the aquifer will be no longer be able to sustain additional withdraws. The capacity of the current water supply, the underground aquifer, will be maxed out. Because of our inland location, Polk County will be in a bind when it comes to utilizing most known new sources of water supplies. We don't border on the ocean or gulf so desalination plants are out. Several rivers originate in our County but because we are located at their source there is little water flow available most of the year. Conservation will work short term but after a few years of our rapid growth patterns we will be back to square one with respect to water supply. Drilling deep wells can supposedly tap another layer of the aquifer but it may well be part of the same underground water supply which is already over pumped and therefore will not help. Large surface reservoirs are good for bird watching but rapid evaporation and costly plumbing to get the water to treatment and distribution plants may kill this idea.

Former County commissioner Neil Combee speaks for everyone when he states that there are no good single alternative water source options left for our region. What many are pinning their hopes on is what some call "conjunctive use". Future water supply will come from a variety of sources depending on the season. During the rainy season surface water would produce our supply of water while the aquifer would be used in the dryer months. There are no guarantees that this will work and for sure it will be very expensive.

There is another option and that is to restrict growth. No one likes to talk about this but as water becomes more costly and difficult to come by it may be the logical conclusion, like it or not. Doing nothing is certainly not an option.

An LED in Your Future?

Charles Geanangel

Lighting accounts for 22% of the electricity we use in a year. Light-emitting diodes use 90% less energy than the standard incandescent bulbs we normally use and they last much longer. The US Department of Energy predicts that if we were to switch over to LED bulbs in our homes, the savings would be ten billion dollars per year. If this peaks your interest read on.

H. R. Round, a British scientist, first noticed that a semiconductor junction would produce light in 1906, but it wasn't until the early 1960s that much practical came of the discovery. You know it as the little red light in some electronic equipment that lets you know that the power is on. How does it work; "a light-emitting diode (LED) is a semiconductor diode that emits incoherent narrow-spectrum light when electrically biased in the forward direction of the p-n junction" in other words you really don't want to know. What you do need to know is that it uses far less energy to operate and lasts far longer than the light bulbs we use now. This will save us money, reduce the need for foreign oil, and by reduce carbon dioxide emissions, significantly lower your carbon footprint to help prevent global warming.

Currently, in the early stages of development, the two biggest problems seem to be that the units are a bit pricy and to a few the flickering is annoying. The price is an artifact of scale and will come down as in all electronic equipment and the flickering problem will be engineered out quickly.

Today you can see the start of the conversion as traffic lights and street lights are being replaced with the new technology. And let's not forget the new Christmas tree lights and other forms of outdoor illumination. For some, the future is here.

Nature Faire

Mark March 15th on your calendar and bring your kids to the Nature Faire. Various nature centered activities for kids with prizes.

Winners of the Natural Florids 2007 Photo Contest will also be presented.

Native Plant Sale

April 26th is the Native Plant Sale at Street Audubon Center. Many types of native Florida plants will be available for purchase. Learn which plants are best for wet, dry shade or sunny locations.

Bird Club Trip

Morris Bridge, Flatlan, Hillsborough River State Park — Jan. 3, 200

Marvel Loftus

It was cold and windy but that didn't stop six of us from enjoying these wonderful parks. Actually it wasn't that cold or windy as we were dressed for the weather and the sun was shining brightly. The sky was an amazing color of deep blue and the Hillsborough River rolled along gently. Those of you who thought it would be a terrible day actually missed a beautiful day of birding. Red Maples and Sweet Gum had shed their leaves and it was much easier to see warblers and vireos as they flew past. At Morris Bridge Park we were greeted by a Belted Kingfisher and a Green Heron. The heron was quickly dispersed by a juvenile white Little Blue Heron. Then we heard the soft peck, peck, peck of not one, but two, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. It was wonderful and we were all happy to be there birding. On the other side of the park across the road we were greeted by many warblers and vireos. While we were deciphering what we were seeing a Red-shouldered Hawk landed on the ground just 10 feet away. What a sight! The hawk stayed there a few minutes while we all got good looks though we didn't see what drew him to the ground. On the way back to our cars Jim Barber spotted a Carolina Wren keeping out of the cold wind in a hollow spot in a sunlit log. This little wren wasn't about to let us scare him out of his nice warm spot and we all enjoyed that experience. On our drive to Hillsborough River State Park we stopped at a pond on Chancey Road. Here we were treated to a Wilson's Snipe, Least Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer and 6 Sandhill Cranes. It was nice to see a pond that had not dried up in the drought. We had lunch at the park and then walked the River Trail. Again we found many birds including Carolina Chickadees. The day ended with finding 25 busy little Chipping Sparrows as we walked to our cars.

If you are interested in joining our adventures with the Bird Club just give me a call: Phone 863.324.9657, cell: 863.289.8188; email: marvel.loftus@gmail.com. Our schedule is posted on Lake Region.net.

Schedule

Feb 4, 2008, Mon, Pizza & Film Night, Street Audubon

Center, 7 PM. Film, "A River Reborn", restoration of Fossil Creek. **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Feb 7, 2008, Thu, Bird Club Trip. Paul Fellers will lead us to Mosaic Phosphate Mines. Reservations required. **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

Feb 11, 2008, Mon, Registration for Reiner Munguia's Photography Walk on Feb 16, limited to 10 people. 9 AM. **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

Feb 16, 2008, Sat, Nature Photography Walk with Reiner Munguia. Boat Ramp Parking Lot, Lake Parker Park, Lakeland at 3 PM. Registration required. **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

Feb 20, 2008, Wed, Bird ID Class see Jan 16.

Feb 21, 2008, Thu, Birding Club Trip. Shiloh Marsh Road, Merritt Island. **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Feb 25, 2008, Mon, Evening Program, "Lake Water Quality", by Cutis Porterfield, Polk County, at Lakeland Public Library, 100 Lake Morton Dr, Lakeland, FL, 7 PM. **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Mar 1, 2008, Photography Class. Sat, Photography Class. 4 Saturdays, Jan 5, 12, 19, and 26. 9 AM to noon at Street Audubon Center \$50 with \$25 due at registration. Photography classes presented by a professional photographer. **Tony Catalano 863-294-3556 or pegtony515@msn.com**

Mar 3, 2008, Mon, Pizza & Film Night. Street Audubon Center, 7 PM. Film, "Spirit of the Rainforest". **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Mar 8, 2008, Photography Class. See Mar 1

Mar 12, 2008, Wed, General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting. 7 PM at Street Audubon Center.

Contact any officer.

Mar 15, 2008, Sat, Nature Faire for Kids, Street Audubon Center, 9 AM. Various nature centered activities, prizes. Photo Contest winners will be announced. **Paul and Janet Anderson**

863-965-8241

Mar 20, 2008, Thu, Bird Club Trip, Tosohatchee State Preserve. **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Mar 22, 2008, Photography Class. Mar 1

Mar 24, 2008, Mon, Evening Program. "Florida Bats", by Cindy and George Mark at Street Audubon Center, 7 PM, refreshments provided. **Marvel Loftus 963-324-9657**

Mar 27, 2008, Thu, Bird Club Trip. Overstreet Landing and Three Lakes Wildlife Refuge. **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

Mar 29, 2008, Photography Class. See Mar 1

Mar 29, 2008, Sat, Green Swamp 2.5 mile Wildflower and Nature Hike and More. Grass Pink orchids, etc. Meet at Van Fleet Rails to Trails Trailhead in Polk City at 8 AM to carpool. Follow the brown Great Florida Birding highway signs on SR 33 in Polk City to the trailhead. Bring lunch and drinks. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

Apr 3, 2008, Thu, Bird Club Trip. Fort DeSoto, St. Petersburg. **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

April 7, 2008, Mon, Pizza & Film Night. Street Audubon Center, 7 PM. Film, "Wild Alaska". **Marvel Loftus 863-324-9657**

April 19, 2008, Sat, Fort DeSoto Warbler Migration Field Trip. Meet at the Lake Mirror Center parking lot in Lakeland at 7 AM to carpool. Bring lunch; dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City. See up to 100 species, many migrants. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

April 26, 2008, Sat, Native Plant Sale. 9 AM-2 PM at the Street Audubon Center. 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**

2006 - 2007 OFFICERS

Steering Committee:

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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, Janet Anderson, Marvel Loftus, Lee Shoe, Herman Moulden, Mali Rafats, and Liz Purnell

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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

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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*.

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Please mail your check and this completed application to:

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 Membership Chrm
 115 Lameraux Rd.,
 Winter Haven, FL 33884.

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

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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



Herman photographed this Chipping Sparrow at Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area near Brooksville on January 11, 2008.

To view these photos in color visit the Lake Region web site:

www.lakeregion.net