



EAGLE'S VIEW



Lake Region Audubon
March/April 2008
Volume 18, Issue 4

Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

Lake Region Audubon Society Natural Florida 2007 Photo Contest



First Place
"Who Me" by Sherry Hockenberry



Second Place
"Snail Kite" by Ron Butts



Third Place
"Butterfly" by Debra McLemore



Honorable Mention

“Roseate Spoonbill” by Ron Butts

“Eastern Meadowlark” by Ron Butts

“Marbled Godwit” by Ron Butts

Wildflower tip - provided by Lois Smith

This looks like a very useful resource for native plant folks.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - U of Texas at Austin <http://www.wildflower.org/>

See: **Native Plant Information Network** with search capability.

The Wildflower Center’s Native Plant Information Network allows you to search for native plant info by plant traits or names, browse through our collection of 17,000 native plant images, and pose your plant question to our resident horticulturalist.

“Mr. David Bianchi of Winter Haven has donated a beautiful book, **“The Audubon Baby Elephant Folio”** edited by Roger T. Peterson. The book contains 381 stunning prints from Audubon’s **“Birds of America”** annotated and arranged by Peterson. It will be available for enjoyment in the library of the Street Nature Center.”

Update on the Newsletters by E-mail

About four months ago, the Board of Directors voted to set up distribution of our newsletter by e-mail, rather than printing and distributing it through the U.S Mail. It was an attempt to save over \$3,000 per year. There was an immediate and positive response from some of our members. Unfortunately, only about 150 out of about 700 members responded. The Board revisited the issue at its March meeting and decided it had to continue to print the newsletter and to distribute it through the mail; otherwise, we would lose contact with almost 80% of our membership.

We have discovered another problem for which we could use your help. It is our intention to continue to attempt to save some money with the electronic distribution of newsletters to those of you who so willingly agreed to accept it by e-mail. The problem is we do not know the names of the members who signed up. Our current website only had the ability to record your addresses but did not have a location for your name. As a result, we have your e-mail addresses, but in most cases, the address does not adequately reveal who you are. The way we can save money is to remove your names from the mailing label list so as not to have to send you a copy in the mail as well as via e-mail. In order to do this we are going to ask you to send an e-mail to Bill Karnofsky. He will match your name with your address as it is stored in our website. Send him an e-mail with "LRAS" in the Subject line, and in the body of the e-mail, type your name as it would appear on our membership roster. Send the e-mail to: billkarnofsky@verizon.net

We are currently investigating another system for e-mail distribution. So you may hear from us again, asking to update the e-mail list. Of course, we will attempt to have the conversion handled automatically, but one never knows until you are in the middle of the process. And finally, it is our intent to use the e-mail list to send notices reminding members of upcoming events.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9 AM - 2 PM

This is one of several fund-raising events for LRAS and it offers local gardeners a chance to buy those hard-to-find Florida native plants. The event also offers lots of literature to further educate gardeners about how to care for these plants and which ones will attract butterflies.

In addition, there will be **free workshops** sponsored by Polk County Extension Services to include:

Methods of Composting	at 9:30 am
Making Rain Barrels	at 11:30 am

To reserve a composter (\$40) or a rain barrel (\$20), call Ann Yasalonis at 863-683-8094, ext 121.

Come, shop and learn more about these nursery grown plants, and feel free to enjoy the hiking trails and wildlife on the 42 acre grounds at:

Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road (off Cypress Gardens Road)
Winter Haven, Fl

For more information, contact Carrie Plair at 863-683-8094

LRAS Volunteer Service Award

An energetic group of bird and butterfly experts from the Lake Region Audubon Society headed by Chuck Geanangel, and Buck and Linda Cooper were honored in a ceremony to recognize volunteers at DeLeon Springs State Park on February 22 by the Florida State Parks, District 3. Their group project, involving over 50 volunteers, was to identify all the birds and butterflies in the 5,087 acre Colt Creek State Park, north of Lakeland over the course of 2007. An amazing 79 species of butterflies and 156 species of birds were discovered. This nomination will be forwarded to Tallahassee for possible further Statewide awards.

Introduction to Mushrooms

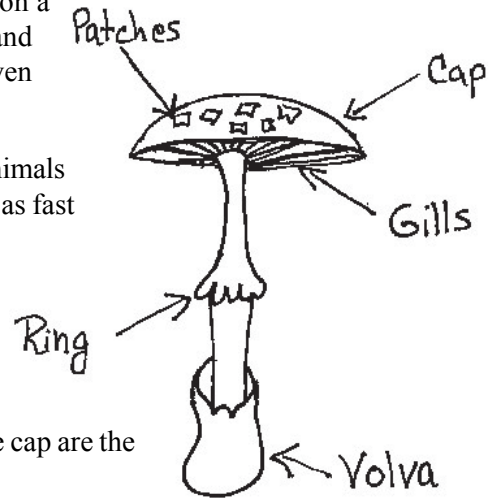
Mali Rafats

Occasionally on our field trips we stumble upon some mushrooms. We have seen puffballs and earthstars, polypores and gilled mushrooms. Here is a little bit of information on the anatomy of a mushroom.

The mushroom itself is just a fruit. The organism that lies below the surface is made up of a network of mycelium called hyphae that produces the fruit to reproduce itself from spores. The spores fall from the gills or the tubes and are carried off by the wind to start a new network of mycelium. Mushroom hunters often create spore prints by cutting the cap off the mushroom and placing it on a piece of paper to sit overnight. Spore prints can confirm identification and can range in color from white or cream colored to brown or purple or even green.

The fruit of the mushroom doesn't grow by cell division like plants and animals do, it grows by cell enlargement. The cells enlarge with water and grow as fast as they can soak it up. This is how they seamlessly pop up over night.

Some mushrooms have gills while others do not. Puffballs have a spore mass called a gleba which is fleshy and solid white when young and turns to powder as it matures, the spores then leave the body through a hole in the top of the mushroom when disturbed. Polypores and boletes have tubes instead of gills and the pores that are visible under the cap are the mouths of the tubes.



Gills are an important feature in identification; they are found underneath the cap and look like thin papery ribs. Gills are identified as being crowded, close or distant. Some mushrooms like chanterelles have gills that descend the stalk. Others like the Meadow Mushroom have free gills that are not attached to the stalk at all.

Some mushrooms have a ring around the stalk. This is actually remains of a partial veil that covered the gills to protect the spores. The ring of the edible Parasol mushroom can easily be moved up and down the stalk but so can its look-a-like, the poisonous Green-Spored Lepiota. A universal veil is an egg-like enclosure that covers the whole immature mushroom and may leave patches on the cap or a volva at the base of the stalk. Some deadly amanitas have a universal veil and can be confused with the edible puffball.

It is imperative that one is certain of the identification before any wild mushroom is eaten.



Yes, our volunteers work. Bill Karnofsky caught Paul Anderson wielding an ax. Paul was clearing the south fence line during a **First Saturday Work Day** at Street Audubon Center.

Lake Kissimmee State Park - Bird Census

Chuck Geanangel

The monthly bird census at Lake Kissimmee State Park this year presents a unique circumstance to compare bird populations today with what it was like thirty years ago. I had planned to make a yearlong comparison but curiosity got the better of me and I decided to look at the first month of data, January, 2008, to see if any trends were observable.

1979 was my first attempt to organize a comprehensive yearlong bird survey. I chose Lake Kissimmee State Park because it was relatively new to the park system and the staff there welcomed our interest. The one constant throughout the ten counts I have organized over the past 30 years is the very positive attitude of the management. In every case they bent over backwards to accommodate our birding teams.

When looking at the numbers, certain results are already apparent. The overall diversity is improving with 97 species identified in comparison to 92 in 1979. 15 new species were found while 10 were missed. Mostly this ebb and flow is normal as birds do fly about and over the year this will average out. However some items are of interest. We found 1313 Yellow-rumped Warblers in 1979 and only 36 this year, a 97% drop. American Goldfinch went from 144 to 11 a 93% drop. On the other hand Pine Warblers went up from 74 to 559 an eight fold increase. Wild Turkey and Eastern Bluebird common on the property now were absent or scarce in 1979. The Snail Kites that patrol the lake front were unknown here in 1979. Bobwhite numbers (50 to 19) are down reflecting the trend countywide but Ground Doves (7 to 31) are higher bucking the local trend. The 10 Hairy Woodpeckers is mind-boggling.

One month is not enough information to speak with authority but some trends appear to be obvious. The Park Service management is working well and for that they can be commended.

Monofilament Line Project

Chuck Geanangel

Welcome to the Lake Region Audubon Society's award winning Newsletter. LRAS volunteers are involved in many areas of a diverse nature. Some of our events such as the great bird trips, fun filled nature fairs, native plant sales, and the popular evenings at the movies, are well known but our folks are doing plenty of other projects too. One project in which LRAS partnered with the Tenoroc Fish Management Area between Lakeland and Auburndale is celebrating its first anniversary next month. Large white tubes have been installed on all of the numerous fishing lakes at TFMA to receive fishermen's waste monofilament line. This line is a notorious killer of birds that live near bodies of water that are heavily fished. The birds become ensnared in the line and can sometime be seen helplessly dangling from tree limbs. The lucky ones die quickly. Our volunteers empty the holding tubes once a month and send the discarded line to a recycling center. Because some fishermen seem not to be able to read the "no trash" labels, we also find all types of garbage which has to be removed from the tubes. My least favorite last month was the soiled baby diapers. Ugh, Ugh. Still that is what the rubber gloves are for and saving the lives of dozens of birds makes it all worth while. If you are interested in getting more involved in Audubon's many and varied environmental projects call and talk to one of the officers listed in this newsletter. What ever your interests, we have something you can do. You don't have to be a bird expert to get involved. I recommend starting small like helping out at the Street Nature Center near Winter Haven. Bring your spouse or come alone. Don't allow life to pass you by, get out and do something fun.

Guidlines for Submitting Articles for Newsletter Publication

Written articles should be in txt, rtf or doc format. RTF being the preferred format. Do not use hard line breaks except for paragraph breaks. Single space all paragraphs and do not indent the first line of a paragraph. Double space between paragraphs only. Use *Times New Roman* as the font at 11 points.

Photographs no more than 500 pixels in the longest dimension and in jpg format. Identify persons in the image and the subject matter. Send as attachment to hmoul@verizon.net.

Volunteer Spotlight

Tom Zimmers grew up in the hills of western Pennsylvania and spent many weekends hiking the woods with a German Shepherd dog that looked a little like Rin Tin Tin. This was Tom's introduction to a world of critters and birds and wonderful scenery that kept him interested in wildlife for years to come. He attended a small college in Indiana and remained in the Midwest during his adult life, mostly in Ohio. After working with The Hartford as a claims rep for 23 years, he retired and dashed off to Florida.

In 2003, Tom bought a house in Winter Haven. A week later he went to Lowe's and bought an exotic palm tree (like a lot of other Yankees from Ohio might do.) A year later, Hurricane Charley almost blew it over. One day he saw a "Volunteers Needed" sign for LRAS at the Circle B Bar Reserve grand opening and promptly signed his name to the list, after talking with Ann Pinner.

Soon he found himself at the Street Audubon Center with its 42 wooded acres, working the trails and doing battle with the air potato and other invasive vines and plants that seemed to challenge his efforts to clear the paths. Like the Queen Palm, for example (the same tree he bought at Lowe's the year before. Oops!) Suffice to say, the experience was at times a bit frustrating, but an educational one as well. Later on, Tom helped remove the old plants around the main building and replant native plants. He helped pull weeds and install irrigation hoses, re-work the butterfly garden and help out with the semi-annual native plant sales.

Occasionally, Tom walks the trails just to feel the peace and quiet of the forest, which in his mind is not so very different from the woods back home in Pa. Other visitors to the center oftentimes comment, "Not many birds but lots of butterflies." But Tom doesn't mind since butterflies make a lot less noise than birds, if you're in the mood for peace and quiet.

Tom usually spends time at the center on Tuesdays and has plans to do more birding in the future as time permits.

BIRD CLUB'S PONCE INLET TRIP, JAN. 31, 2008

Marvel Loftus

It was a long drive but I think it was worth it. Ron Plummer stated we drove 286 miles from my parking lot and back. This is the longest trip of the season. Ponce Inlet or Light House Park is located just south of Daytona Beach. The weather was beautiful and the wind was mild. Our first stop was at the Volusia County Landfill. At first all the gulls were flying because the workers were right where the gulls usually sit. Everyone was excited because there were so many adult and immature Bald Eagles and it was fun watching the gulls flying over the pond, drinking water like a skimmer. There were thousands in the air. Finally Pat Wiedenman spotted the Glaucous Gull sitting on top of the hill. This is a large, pale Gull, bigger than the Herring Gull, so that was a thrill. Then, as we were driving out of the landfill, the gulls finally settled down in a group near to the road. Ron Plummer, who goes to California on a regular basis, spotted the California Gull and I spotted the immature Iceland Gull. All the birds matched the pictures I took off the Internet. We were off to a good start. The next stop was the Halifax river. The mud flats didn't have many birds. The Brown Pelicans and Great Egrets were roosting on a small island just south of the park under the bridge. We spotted Hooded Mergansers and then Ron Plummer spotted Red-breasted Mergansers in a large group. There were at least 50; I have never seen so many mergansers at one time. With them, was one Common Loon. Looking a short distance across the water at the mangroves we spotted the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Next, we drove to Light House Park on Ponce Inlet. While eating lunch we spotted a loon but we couldn't tell if it was a Pacific Loon, but one was seen this date in the Inlet. When we walked out to the end of the jetty, the Bonaparte's Gulls were playing in the surf. Michael Brothers, from the Marine Science Center, was there waiting for us. He helped us find the Great Cormorant and a brief fly-by look at the Purple Sandpiper as it left the North Jetty to go to the South Jetty. As we were watching the Purple Sandpiper, Michael spotted two Brant Geese coming around the end of the North Jetty. The brants swam around a few fishing boats in the Inlet and continued across the mouth of the Inlet until they were spooked by another boat. I bet every one there was wishing they owned their own scope. We really appreciated the help we received from Michael Brothers. After leaving the jetty we went over to the Light House area. Randi Denham spotted a group of warblers. They were mostly Yellow-rumps but there were two Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers and one White-eyed Vireo. This ended our wonderful trip with 53 species and a few life birds for some of us.

Bird Club – Mid-Pinellas Trip**Januray 24, 2008**

Marvel Loftus

A very nice group started out on a very foggy morning to visit Pinellas County. There were many birds during low tide at John Bonner Park. We were able to find Roseate Spoonbills and due to the fog we looked for Monk Parakeets. The Monk Parakeets were found and we returned to the beach, but it was still too foggy. We drove through Walsingham Park and found a Bald Eagle on the nest. Next on the list was the Indian Shores Nature Park and the Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, also tried for Black-crowned Night-Herons, but did not get any. We then went to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores Beach. Many Black-crowned Night-Herons were hanging out, looking into the cages and wondering why they were not also being fed. It is always nice to go to the Sanctuary because you get to see some of the birds up close. We saw Clapper Rail, Sora Rail, an Ovenbird and a Northern Parula. There were also Gannets of all ages and tons of Brown Pelicans in and around the cages looking for a hand-out. This is also a great place to find shore birds. Although the fog was still on the Remington Towers, we found Black Skimmers on the beach. We did not locate the Peregrine Falcon that is usually found here. We had lunch at Boca Ciega Millennium Park. It is a beautiful park, all Pinellas Parks are great. There were no ducks out in the Inter-coastal waters. We got a glimpse of a Reddish Egret. In Seminole Park we finally found a flock of warblers, including a Prairie. We had a fabulous ending for the trip at the Courtney Campbell Causeway (Hwy 60). There were at least three dozen American Oystercatchers; a dozen Horned Grebes; hundreds of Dunlin, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers; many Willets and one Common Loon. Larry Lane spotted a female Bufflehead. We all enjoyed seeing waves of hundreds of shorebirds flying back and forth. What can I say - it was a wonderful display. It was a glorious day and so great to spend it with so many nice people who are willing to drive through all that traffic but I think the trip was worth it.

Marvel Loftus

Phone 863 324 9657

LRAS Event Schedule

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. See page 3 of this newsletter.

May 17, 2008, Sat, Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Target birds will be Red-cockaded Woodpecker, singing Bachman's Sparrows, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Carolina Chickadee. We will be looking for spring wildflowers also. Meet at Street Nature Center for carpooling at 6:30 AM for carpooling or the McDonalds just off US 27 and north of Hwy 60 in Lake Wales at 7 AM. Be sure to gas-up. Bring lunch and drinks. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

May 31, 2008, Sat, Avon Park Air Force Range. Meet at 8 AM at Street Audubon Center for carpooling. Bring lunch. Perhaps, I.D. 75 wild flower species, including at least 5 orchid species, plus possibly some very good birds. Minimum hiking. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

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 National and the Florida Audubon magazines 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.

Ann Pinner, 863-956-2374




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.

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Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul Anderson

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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.

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 #: _____

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Save costs, send newsletter by e-mail

Please mail your check and this completed application to:

Lake Region Audubon Society
 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.

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.



Feature Photo

Joe Misaszek Jr photographed this imature Indigo Bunting at his backyard feeder.

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

www.lakeregion.net