



# EAGLE'S VIEW



Lake Region Audubon  
May/June 2008  
Volume 18, Issue 5

Street Audubon Center  
115 Lameraux Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

## Birding Trips

Paul Fellers

### Mosaic Phosphate Mines

For the 22 of us on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, a tally of 95 species was very respectable. Some birds of note in checklist order were 60 Am. White Pelican, Am. Bittern, 2 Roseate Spoonbill, 6 Black-bellied Whistling Duck, 800 Green-winged Teal, 9 Northern Pintail, 39 Gadwall, 12 Am. Wigeon, 500 Hooded Merganser, 175 Ruddy Duck (12 duck species overall), 5 Bald Eagle (3 on nests), 13 Northern Harrier, 12 Greater Yellowleg, 22 Lesser Yellowleg, 2 Spotted Sandpiper, 14 Long-billed Dowitcher, 7 Common Snipe, 75 Caspian Tern, 3 Royal Tern, 4 Black Skimmer, 2 Great-horned Owl, 2 Barred Owl, 2 N. Flicker (on dike), 3 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo and Black and White Warbler. Many thanks are due Diana Youmans and Mosaic Phosphates for providing a fine lunch for us and allowing the opportunity to bird the phosphate lands.

### Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Our Annual winter trek to Florida's east coast resulted in a whopping 98 bird species, including some great sightings by the 16 of us on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Tops, I thought, was a group of 253 Red Knot off Pumphouse Road, a species in serious trouble due to human interference in their life cycle.

Specifically, commercial fishermen have decimated the Horseshoe Crab population for biomedical labs that collect crab blood as a medium for testing the purity of injectible drugs, and more recently for cheap bait for whelk (sold as conch) and eel. The Red knots need to feed on the millions of nutrient-rich eggs of spawning crabs to survive their long migration from South America and then on to the Arctic in a few mammoth nonstop flights, fully 9,000 miles overall. Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay are the main disaster areas where the birds come ashore. Red Knots may be put on the endangered list. All of this tragedy has transpired in just the past 10-20 years or so.

Other birds of note in checklist order were Common Loon, 3 Horned Grebe (on Indian River), 30 Northern Gannet (Playalinda Beach), 6 Reddish Egret, 60 Glossy Ibis, 60 Roseate Spoonbill, 250 Northern Pintail, Redhead, 6 Bufflehead (3 Male and 3 Female in the Indian River), 4 Bald Eagles (2 at nest), perched Peregrine Falcon, 40 Wild Turkey (along Rte. 417 on the way over), Sora Rail (observed from viewing platform along Black Point Dr. right where Ron Butts said it would be!), 150 American Avocet, 5 Marbled Godwit, 1,000 Dunlin (off Pumphouse Rd.), 4 Stilt Sandpiper, 2 Bonaparte's Gull, 150 Black Skimmer, 3 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Scrub Jay, and 200 Am. Robin. Then it was off to a delicious seafood dinner at Dixie Crossroads in Titusville, then home. What a great day it was!

### A Day Afield in the Green Swamp

There we were at the Rails-to-Trails trailhead in Polk City at 8 am on March 29<sup>th</sup> for carpooling for the Green Swamp field trip when a gorgeous Broad-winged Hawk sailed overhead for about Polk's 6<sup>th</sup> record! For the 15 of us, this was a great beginning to what was to be a red-letter day.

A couple of stops along Route 33 resulted in a few neat plants/flowers: Green Eyes (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), Tread

Softly (*Cnidocolus stimulosus*), Scrub Buckwheat (*Eriogonum longifolium*), Purple Milkweed (*Asclepias humistrata*), Pedicellate Milkweed (*A. Pedicellata*), and Mullein (*Verbascum virgatum*).

Our first stop in Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) 48,000-acre area north of Green Pond Grade in the camping area produced such beauties as at least a dozen blooms of one of my all-time favorite wild flowers, Pine Hyacinth (*Clematis baldwinii*) with 2 of the plants sporting pairs of bell-like flowers; several delicate pink *Stenandrium dulce* blooms; our first of several large bluish/purplish violets, *Viola septemloba*, with some of the flowers exceeding an inch in diameter; a few small but elegant Bay Lobelia (*L. Feayana*); and a single Atamasco Lily (*Zephyranthes atamasco*). The Withlacoochee River was more like a rivulet, but nevertheless flowing for a change.

Then it was time to start our 2 ½ -mile loop hike on the west side of Main Grade just beyond the river along the old elevated tram trail. Most of the flowers on the hike are found along the pine flatwoods section that seems to retain enough moisture for the flowers to survive even after droughts. This was an exceptional year for flowers, apparently due to good timing of the few rains that we did have.

Some of the keepers were: Small Butterwort (*Pinquicula pumila*) represented by blooms in varying colors from almost white through pink and deeper mauves; Yellow Butterwort (*P. lutea*); Procession Flower (*Polygala incarnata*; a showy purple bloom on top of a spindly stem); Tall Milkwort (*Polygala rugelii*), another of many *Polygala* species that we have here in Florida; Pineland Daisy (*Chaptalia tomentosa*); Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia subulata*), with a tiny yellow flower on a short spindly stem growing in a wet area; Pink Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*) with several of these partially carnivorous plants having delicate tiny pink blooms; 2 more violet species, Florida Violet (*V. floridana*) and lots of Long-leaf Violets (*V. lanceolata*); Southern Blue Flag (*Iris virginica*) in standing water; and a rare, showy yellow Pineland Heliotrope (*Heliotropium polyphyllum*).

Our part of the hike through deep woods was fast paced—lots of mosquitoes! Of special note on the hike was the sighting of a very cooperative, beautiful Pygmy Rattlesnake about 15" in length under the pines. Lunch at the old Stewart Homestead under the huge mulberry and oak trees was in the perfect spot.

Some stops after lunch on Powder Grade produced lots of Yellow and Blue Butterwort (*Pinguicula lutea* and *P. caerulea*, respectively), a single Grass Pink Orchid (*Calopogon barbatus*) located by sharp-eyed Liz Lane, several Ladies' Tresses Orchids (2 *Spiranthes* sp.), Club Moss (*Lycopodium cernuum*; an ancient plant), Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*; tall, partially -carnivorous plant growing in water guarded by an 8-foot gator), and at least a dozen showy Osceola Plumes or Crow Poison (*Zigadenus densus*; a species of lily). An attractive yellow flower, Yellowtops (*Flaveria linearis*) was found at a bridge. This species has not been recorded in Polk County before and is thought to have come in with the large gravel used as roadfill in that area. A final stop on Main Grade was to see Southern or Hooded Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia minor*) which I was able to find, but the plants had no flowers.

Birds that we noted numbered 37 species including Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3 Great-crested Flycatcher, Carolina Chickadee, 2 Brown-headed Nuthatch, Sedge Wren, Rudy-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo and 8 Parula Warbler.

Butterflies tallied by Linda and Buck Cooper were an excellent 31 with lots of the big showy swallowtails, eg. 69 Palamedes, 20 Zebra, 13 Eastern Tiger and 10 Spicebush. A Gray Hairstreak nectaring on a White-tip Aster was a special sight.

It was a great day afield with much camaraderie. All flower, bird and butterfly lists will be forwarded to Chuck Lane of SWFWMD as requested, something we are happy to do.

### Fort DeSoto Birding Field Trip

Our annual trek to Ft. DeSoto Park on Florida's West Coast to witness the amazing spring migration of birds returning from Central and South America to the U.S. and Canada for nesting went very well except for low warbler numbers. The 19 of us on April 19, 2008, were treated to many of the jewels of the entire bird world. These included 5 Summer Tanager (3 bright red males), 4 Scarlet Tanager (all males), male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 Blue Grosbeak, 4 Indigo Bunting, a gorgeous very cooperative male Painted Bunting, and 6 Orchard Oriole (4 of which were adult males). On a tip from local birder, Lyn Atherton, most of the group was able to observe a Black-whiskered Vireo, a lifer for most

and a rarity these days, but 30 years earlier was fairly common. I can remember days when the late great birder John Edscorn and I could identify a dozen of these vireos by voice just by driving along the mangrove edges. A major contributor to the demise of the bird has been the parasitizing of the vireo's nests by Brown-headed Cowbirds. A few other birds of note of the 80 species observed in checklist order were 2 Magnificent Frigatebird, 3 Reddish Egret (including a rare white form at North Beach), 4 Yellow-crowned Night Heron (at a pair of nests in the East Beach woods), 2 Roseate Spoonbill, 4 Redhead Duck (at the pond on the old Tierra Verde Golf Course, now the site of obscene million dollar houses), Cooper's Hawk, 2 Wilson's Plover, American Oystercatcher, 9 Marbled Godwit (at North Beach), 40 Short-billed Dowitcher (most in gorgeous reddish breeding plumage), Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 9 Cedar Waxwing (the only ones anyone had seen for the whole winter and these at the parking lot at Lake Mirror Center), male Cape May Warbler, 2 Prairie Warbler, male and female Blackpoll Warbler (just back perhaps all the way from Argentina and continuing their way another 1,000 plus miles to northern U.S. and Canada), and Northern Waterthrush.

Several Mangrove Skipper butterflies, some of which were nectaring on the blooms of an Elephant Ear tree, were observed. The smallest butterfly east of the Mississippi, Eastern Pygmy Blue, was seen near the mulberry tree on succulents located there. Many of us stopped by the Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City for a delicious dinner (and refreshing, ice-cold beer for some of us). It was good having several of the birders from the Watson Clinic's new birding group join us. Hope to see you on the trail.

### **Bird Observations of Note for 12 Field Trips to Mosaic Phosphate Lands During January-March, 2008**

For 1/9, 2,500 Double-crested Cormorant, 275 Glossy Ibis, 19 Northern Pintail (most present through Feb.), 45 Gadwall, 19 Red-breasted Merganser (some recorded through Feb., and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number recorded for Polk), 3 Bald Eagle (2 on nests); for 1/12, 2 Roseate Spoonbill, 6 Black-bellied Whistling Duck, 12 Am. Wigeon, 500 Hooded Merganser (present the whole period), 13 Northern Harrier (1 male), 3 Royal Tern, 2 Hermit Thrush (IMC Peace River Park); 1/15, 300 Blue-wing Teal, female Bufflehead, 150 Ruddy Duck, 4 American Avocet, 2 Great-horned Owl (on nests); for 1/21, 40 Long-billed Dowitcher, 3 Yellow-throated Warbler (IMC Peace River Park); for 1/29, 2,700 Green-winged Teal, 30 Northern Pintail (highest for period), 2 Black-necked Stilts, 96 Stilt Sandpiper, 125 Long-billed Dowitcher; for 1/30, Brown Pelican, 7 Green-back Heron, 2 Bald Eagle (both at nests, 1 with 2 young), Merlin, 1,000 Western Sandpiper (extraordinary record), 105 Stilt Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern (rare winter record); for 2/3, 9 Am. Bittern (most seen for period and perhaps the highest number recorded at the mines), Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Black-necked Stilt; for 2/7, 2,000 Am. White Pelican (highest number for the period), 300 Northern Shoveler, 6 Bald Eagle (3 on nests), 2 Dunlin, 150 Black Skimmer, 2 Northern Parula (IMC Peace River Park); for 2/9, 200 Ring-necked Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, 10 Red-tailed Hawk, 130 Long-billed Dowitcher, 500 Black Skimmer; for 2/16, Brown Pelican, 11 Black-crowned Night Heron, 2 Roseate Spoonbill, 50 Osprey, 51 Am. Avocet, 3 Dunlin, 4 Purple Martin (first of migration); for 3/26, 12 Roseate Spoonbill, Cinnamon Teal (rare, and Polk's second record), 2 Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, 7 Bald Eagle (2 large young flying about in the nest tree located just below Bradley Junction), 32 Am. Avocet, 4 Dunlin, 228 Long-billed Dowitcher, 120 Caspian Tern, 15 Common Ground Dove, 2 Great-horned Owl (2 large young at nest at Fort Green Mine entrance).

Average species observed for each Audubon/birding group numbered about 90. Thanks are due Diana Youmans and Mosaic Phosphates for allowing visitation to the lands.



Left  
Limpkin, Myakka  
River State Park,  
March 13, 08

Right  
Honeymoon Island  
Causeway, Black  
Skimmers, Jan 19, 08,  
Paul Fellers, photogra-  
pher



**Growth Cap Coalition**

Dear Polk County Voter,

Are you sick and tired of seeing pastures and orange groves bull-dozed to make way for an ocean of rooftops and traffic that rivals major cities? Are you concerned about our water supplies and wildlife habitat? Are you upset over how your tax dollars are being used? If so, this is your opportunity to help make Growth Management history by giving our voters a chance to cap residential growth in Polk County. This cap would apply to both Polk County and its cities.

The cap would limit the total number of residential units allowed under County and municipal comprehensive plans to the total that exists upon approval of the amendment. *Polk's population is now roughly 600,000 and current comprehensive plans allow housing for another estimated 1.2 million people. Polk's growth outpaces Florida as a whole.*

The amendment would set Urban Service Areas to limit sprawl into rural areas and allow for the transfer of residential density from rural areas into Urban Service Areas via the free market purchase of development rights. It would also prevent cities from increasing residential density outside of the established Urban Service Area.

The Growth Cap Coalition spearheaded by a group of concerned citizens. The proposed amendment has been endorsed by Lake Region Audubon, the Florida Sierra Club and the Florida Bi-Partisans.

To get the proposed charter amendment on the ballot, we need to obtain approximately 20,000 petitions signed by registered Polk County voters.

Here is how you can help:

1. Visit our website to learn about the issues: [www.GrowthCapCoalition.com](http://www.GrowthCapCoalition.com)
2. Print the petition that is available on the website.
3. Fill out requested information on the petition.
4. Mail your signed petition to the address on the bottom of the petition.
5. Share this information with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers

We greatly appreciate your help in bringing this issue to the voters. Please let us know if you have any questions. Our contact information is on the website, on the petition form and listed below.

Regards,

Marian Ryan, Campaign Manager

Growth Cap Coalition

Website: [www.GrowthCapCoalition.com](http://www.GrowthCapCoalition.com)

Home: 863-293-6961

E-mail: [GrowthCapCoalition@Gmail.com](mailto:GrowthCapCoalition@Gmail.com)



Nature Faire Photos  
by Tony Catalano



**Florida Lawns**

Chuck Geanangel

For many people a big part of the Florida dream is to surround your home with a big, green, lush, weed free lawn. Few realize that maintaining this dream will become a full time job, cost a bundle, and consume vast amounts of water. Here are a few more things to think about.

Lawn maintenance is a \$5 billion dollar a year business. Depending on the level of care you hire, mowing, pest treatment and fertilizers can run you several thousand dollars per year. Remember in Florida, your lawn needs attention the year around. Then there is watering. Lawn irrigation uses fully one half of all your household water allocation. Americans use an average of 106 gallons of fresh water per day and 53 gallons are reserved for watering the lawn. In Polk County it's even more. Turf grasses are by far the largest agricultural enterprise in Florida with 5 million acres under cultivation. That's 1/7 of the State that is covered by turf grass and 75% is in our yards. Watering lawns in Florida consumes an average of about 1 billion gallons of fresh water PER DAY.

No one is recommending that we do away with lawns since they absorb carbon monoxide, cool the surroundings, reduce glare and lower the ambient level of noise. Well maintained lawns can add value to your home and are very attractive. So here are a couple ways to conserve water recommended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. First don't water so much. Tragically 30% to 80 % of your water is wasted through run off and evaporation. Your lawn can get by with about one to one and a half inches per week. During the summer watering once a week is fine and in the winter once every two weeks will keep your lawn green. After a heavy rain you can usually wait about 2 weeks before you water again. Second, cut back on the area that needs watering. Try Xeriscaping part of your lawn or use some drought resistant plants. Become part of the solution, not part of the problem.

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**Florida Legislature, 2008, Final Report**

Chuck Geanangel

In a very bad budget year the environment came out amazingly well. Lakeland's own Senator Paula Dockery, a perennial champion of water and public lands, played a big part in making this a positive session.

Florida Forever, the award winning state program for buying environmentally sensitive land, not only was funded this year for \$300 million but the bonding authority was extended for ten more years at the same level. The restoration of the Everglades received \$50 million this year down from \$200 million last year, a disappointment. I'm sure you know that only weeks ago the House had not included any money at all for these two items which were Audubon's top legislative priorities. Your letters and e-mails made the difference here, thanks.

In the energy field, electric power utilities now must work with their customers to reduce demand through conservation and efficiency. In the same bill, a state cap and trade program for greenhouse gases was established. This is a small first step toward combating global change.

Funding was secured for the long over due Florida Keys wastewater program and a ban was placed on new ocean outfalls in south Florida and requires existing outfalls to use advanced treatment. Starting this year gambling vessels must treat rather than dump their onboard sewage. Lastly, a bill authorizing the enforcement of penalties against damaging seagrass was passed.

Sometime your best work involves killing bad bills and most of the bills designed to weaken growth management were defeated.

Our hats are off to Eric Draper, Charles Lee, Julie Wraithmell, and Julie Hill, this years great Audubon Legislative Team. Once again they worked wonders.

**"BETWIXT AND BETWEEN: BIRDING AT ST. MARKS WILDLIFE REFUGE"**

William Haddad

Mid-March in Florida is too late for most wintering ducks and too early for most migrants passing through the state. Nevertheless, and because of a busy schedule (yes, even though we are retired!), Fay and Gary McCoy, Betty Butcher and I scheduled a four day camping trip for March 17-20, 2008 staying at the campground just outside of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Despite the season, we did find some 116 species of birds. Highlights of the trip included:

1. Several Ruby-crowned Kinglets displaying their ruby crowns, seen at extremely close range.
2. A Common Loon in summer plumage.
3. Very close views of a Redhead Duck swimming back and forth, perhaps looking for his flock, which had probably already headed north.
4. Nesting Carolina Chickadees.
5. Close looks at a lone Glaucous Gull. A life bird for Gary and me.
6. A mature Bald Eagle catching some sort of rodent close to where we were standing.
7. Good looks at many shorebirds, including American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts.
8. Hearing both the shy Marsh and Sedge Wrens singing, and seeing the former.
9. A Sora Rail that wasn't shy.
10. A female Baltimore Oriole in the campground.
11. Several Red-cockaded Woodpeckers found at Ochlockonee River State Park, close to St. Marks.

Despite the arson of a house adjacent to our campground resulting in a night of several explosions and the sound of fire engines and sheriff's vehicles, we enjoyed good, if somewhat crisp weather along with the good birding. Not to mention the delicious seafood in the nearby town of Woodville.

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**Pizza & Film and Evening Programs.**

Marvel Loftus

Another year has passed and I believe almost everyone enjoyed the films and the Evening Program's presenters. Next year is already in the planning stage. The First Pizza and Film night will be held at our Street Audubon Nature Center on the First Monday in the Months of November, December, January, February, March, and April. Our first evening program will be held at our Street Audubon Nature Center on November 24, 2008. From there on they will be held at the Circle B Bar Nature Center during the months of January, February, and March. Hopefully they will be held on 4th Monday of the month as they were done in the past. I am open for any suggestion for these programs so if you have any ideas send them my way, the sooner the better. I wish to thank all the people who so generously gave me their time and help. I think the Salads that we added to the Pizza & Film night which were donated by Sally Gilmore went over very big and thank you for all the cookies and cake donations. This all helped us break even with the food portion of this program. No way does a \$1.00 per slice cover the cost of the food. We only went in debt for about \$50.00 for the films I purchased. The Wine and Cheese tasting at our Evening Programs that were held at the Street Audubon Nature Center were absolutely superb thanks to Emily Sansone and her crew. I will be looking forward to next year and seeing all of you again at these programs. For information contact:

Marvel Loftus,  
Program Chairman  
Phone 863 324 9657

**Whooping Crane Project – 2008**

Bill Karnofsky

The Board of Directors approved a contribution of \$208.00 to the Whooping Crane Project entitled "Operation Migration". This is the widely publicized project in which first year Whooping Cranes from Wisconsin are taught the migration route to their Central Florida winter grounds. They are taught to fly behind an ultralight aircraft.

It is believed that in the year 1860 there existed about 1,500 Whooping Cranes. That number decreased to its lowest level of only 15 birds in 1941. Due to coordinated efforts of government agencies, scientists and bird loving volunteers, by 1999 the wild population had increased to 180. The only surviving wild population that migrates spends its summers in Wood Buffalo National Park which straddles the border of Alberta and Northwest Territories in Canada and winters in and around Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf coast of Texas.

Scientists have long recognized the risk of having all of the wild Whooping Cranes using one wintering and breeding location. With all the wild birds concentrated in one small area, the population could be wiped out by disease, bad weather or human impacts. The birds' survival depends on additional, separate populations.

The Operation Migration Team is the group that has successfully created the non-migratory flock of Whooping Cranes that many of our members have been fortunate to see in and around Polk County. This flock was created over a number of years, beginning in 1993, with chicks hatched in captivity.

The project to which Lake Region Audubon Society contributed is the one designed to establish a second migratory flock. This flock summers in Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Central Wisconsin. The young birds are then led by the ultralight aircraft over 1,260 miles to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on the west coast of Central Florida.

Last fall, due to a freak storm in Florida, the entire 2007 class of 18 birds was lost. This shows just how important their goal is to have separate flocks, to preserve the genetic pool. Imagine the tragedy had the only existing wild flock from Texas been killed because of a single storm. The team has made changes to the Florida site, which will preclude another disaster like that which occurred in the pen area last year, however the financial loss and the loss of the genetic diversity cannot be repaired any time soon.

We all must help save what is still in the genetic pool and help get this second wild flock established. It is for this reason that your Board of Directors contributed. The team estimates it costs about \$100,000.00 per bird to raise, train, and teach the migration route. They have calculated that just to teach them the migration route, considering the operating costs of the trip, including fuel, will average \$208.00 per mile.

If you are as impressed with the grandeur of Whooping Cranes and the dedication of the men and women working on this project, we would encourage you to also donate to this project. You can donate as little or as much as you are comfortable doing. You can send your donations to and make your checks payable to:

Operation Migration  
174 Mary St  
Port Terry, Ontario, L9L 1B7

You can visit their web site at: [www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org)

Or, you can call them at 1-800-675-2618 to make a contribution.



Nature Faire Photos  
by Tony Catalano



**Lake Region Bird Club**

Marvel Loftus

We ended our year by visiting Ft. DeSoto on April 10, 2008. We had a few nice birds but no fall out of warblers. We saw the Magnificent Frigatebird flying across the sky. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nesting in the East Beach woods. When we were watching them a Yellow-throated Vireo came into view. A beautiful yellow Prairie Warbler was there too. The Mulberry Tree provided a Prothonotary Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Orchard Orioles. In the North Woods, some of us found Worm-eating Warblers. All in all, it was a great day and I wish to thank everyone for the wonderful gift. It is greatly appreciated. This year our total number of species seen on all our trips was 179. Quite a bit less than the 191 we had the year before. The ones that we should have had but missed is the Gadwall and Canvasback Duck, no Rails, no Burrowing or Barred Owls, and Cedar Waxwings. These birds we have always had the previous five years. Even if we only had 179 species, we did have fun and we did enjoy our beautiful Florida. Next year will be here before you know it. Our organization meeting will be the first Thursday in November, the sixth. We will meet at the Street Audubon Nature Center at 9:00 AM. Bring your ideas and complaints. This is where we form our car pools and plan the places we will bird in the coming months. With the gas prices the way they are we should probably plan more trips around our Lakeland-Winter Haven area. Probably only make one long trip a month. If you are interested in joining us this coming year, just contact me before the November meeting and I will put you on our membership list. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost. For information contact:

Marvel Loftus  
Phone 836 324 9657

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**Mead Gardens and Audubon Birds of Prey Center**

Marvel Loftus

The Bird Club discovered a little gem in the busy city of Winter Park on March 6, 2008 at Mead Gardens. This time the weather even cooperated. The sun was warm with only a small cool breeze. As we entered the garden, a person informed us that a Nashville Warbler has been seen in the park. We headed right where it has been seen. Everyone was quiet. Northern Cardinals were chirping back and forth. Finally a group of warblers entered the Butterfly Garden. We strained our eyes but not a Nashville Warbler could be found. Instead a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was taking advantage of a flowering bush and much to our surprise, an Orange-crowned Warbler was eating some seeds off the top of a tree. The Orange-crowned stayed there for everyone to get a good view and he matched the pictures in our guide books. They have hardly any markings. just a yellow-green bird with a line through it's eye. Oh what fun! After this we walked the Boardwalk. Goldfinches were seen across the spans of vine covered bushes, sitting on some dead bushes. Finally they came close enough to be identified. A Carolina Wren was singing just a few feet from us. Finally the wren came out so a few of us got to see him. Down the trail we heard a tap, tap, tap. One tree looked like a cribbage board. We looked to the top of that tree and there was the culprit, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Still continuing our walk, about six Downy Woodpeckers were flying around above our heads. They brought a whole group of warblers with them, Northern Parulas, Black-and-white, Pine, and the most beautiful Yellow-throats. We just sat back and watched the show. A female Pileated Woodpecker ended this show with her glowing red head in the sun. In the Ponds a few of us found a beautiful male Wood Duck flirting with 3 females. We ended our short walk and had an early lunch, sitting under the beautiful Live Oaks with Azaleas in full bloom underneath. There were many flowering wildflowers through out the park. We ended the day by going to the Audubon Birds of Prey Center. Susie gave us a wonderful tour, telling all the stories about how these Raptors arrived at the center. This is a wonderful place to visit. You see eagles, kites, owls, and hawks up close and learn how to identify them in the wild. Everyone enjoyed this day very much. If you are interested in joining our little group, just give me a call. Phone 836 324 9657

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**Fall Warbler Migration Walks at Saddle Creek**

August 16th will be the first Saturday for the Fall Warbler Migration Walks at Saddle Creek Park. The trail head is located just beyond the Polk County maintenance buildings and firing range at Saddle Creek Park. The walks typically last about four hours, but will vary depending on the number and variety of birds present. We will be looking for warblers, and a variety of song birds that are migrating south. Please bring binoculars, insect repellent, beverage, and wear comfortable shoes. **Walks start at 8 AM and continue through October. Bob Snow (863) 644-4868, e-mail: blsnow11@verizon.net**

**Bird Club Trip — Tosohatchee State Preserve March 27, 2008**

Marvel Loftus

The bird club discovered a jewel of a park when we went to Tosohatchee State Preserve on March 27, 2008. We had gone there the year before and were amazed at the size of this Preserve. We thought it was wonderful because we saw Sora's and Bitterns last year but because of bad planning, we had to hurry off to Orlando Wetlands for a scheduled time to enter the gate. This year it was decided at our Organization Meeting last November to just go to



Swallow-tailed Kite by Norm Brewer

Tosohatchee. Approximately 30 of us met at the gate parking lot at 9:00 AM. It was a beautiful day. Randy had already spotted a Black-and-White Warbler, we were listening to a Carolina Wren singing his heart out and a deer made his way up the road. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers were calling from all sides and a Pileated Woodpecker was thumping away at a tree near by. A park ranger showed us a beautiful Red Rat Snake. What a beautiful color and it matched her red hair. This was the beginning of a wonderful day. We all got into our cars and we barely made it out of the parking lot, just a block or so down the road when we stop to see a Red Shouldered Hawk sitting in a tree. I got my scope out but by the time I had it set up the hawk had flown out of sight. We were not disappointed though because Jim Barber had a Red-headed Woodpecker in his scope. It is such a beautiful bird especially when the sun is shining on their sparkling red head. I was explaining to everyone that this is perfect Bachman's Sparrow habitat and that they should all be singing at this time of the year. Gloria

Brooke pulled out her handy, dandy little recorder that has a disc in it that plays bird songs. We all listen to the

Bachman's Sparrow's song. Now we were ready to go and find one. We got into our cars again and turned the corner. I was watching an American Kestrel flying from tree to tree, so we stopped again. This time we all heard the Bachman's Sparrow singing and finally we found him in a small bush not too far from the road. We were in the Preserve only a short time and we already had two great birds, Red-headed Woodpecker and the Bachman's Sparrow. We continued on our way and on the Third stop we just got out of the cars just to look around and a Swallow-tailed Kite flew over the trees.

We then went on our way. The Park Ranger suggested we go to this one place and take a short .8 of a mile hike. We discovered that it was under water and none of us really wanted to get our feet wet and besides we could not hear any birds. So back in the cars, turned them around with out getting stuck and made our way back to Fishing Hole Road. We didn't go too far when

we saw movement in the trees. This is where we saw about a dozen Brown-headed Nuthatch. What a treat. Stopped at a little lake and as we drove up, a Bald Eagle made a pass at the lake for a fish. As we made our way through the Preserve we saw and heard more Bachman's Sparrows, Brown-headed Nuthatch and many more birds. We didn't see any Bitterns or Soras on this trip, but that was all right. We ended the day at the Horse Camp. We ate our lunch in the tress and around us were several warblers, vireos, and kinglets. This was a nice way to end the day.



Bird Club Members by Norm Brewer

**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.

Good News!!!

**Beverly Albritton, phone 533-2829 has agreed to be Coordinator for Volunteers during the summer months. ( May through August)**



*Brooke Pottery*  
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 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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## 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 jiandr@aol.com

Lee Shoe 863-632-1675 lshoe@tampabay.rr.com

### Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul Anderson

**Board Members:** Lewis Wright, 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

VP/Programs: Marvel Loftus

VP/Conservation: Chuck Geanangel 863-326-5748

VP/Field Trips: Paul Fellers 863-293-0486

VP Membership:

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

### 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](http://www.lakeregion.net). The photographs are much nicer in full color.

You will also find the latest schedules and other information. **Rae Bourquein has resigned as WebMaster. She has done a terrific job with the web site for the last several years.**

### 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  
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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake Region Audubon Society  
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**“Eagle’s View”** Newsletter,  
Volume 18, Issue 5  
May/June 2008  
Published five times yearly by  
Lake Region Audubon Society,  
115 Lameraux Rd.,  
Winter Haven, FL 33884.

**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](http://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**

Black-necked Stilt  
Hatched May 23, 2008 at  
Circle B Bar Reserve.

Photo by Herman

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

[www.lakeregion.net](http://www.lakeregion.net)