



EAGLE'S VIEW



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Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNTS

Linda F. Cooper

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

Disney Wilderness Preserve, near Poinciana, is an 11000 acre mosaic of flatwoods, swamps, oak hammocks, streams, lakefronts and former pastures undergoing restoration. This count fielded three teams for a total of fifteen people. Because of the continuing destruction of habitat in the Poinciana area the team normally covering that area was put inside DWP. For the first time this allowed two teams on the preserve. Team 3 headed by Tom Palmer covers the far side of the circle, across Lake Tohopekaliga. He also canoed across Cypress Lake – a greatly appreciated extra effort. All contributed species not seen by another team.

Zebra and Palamedes were the most numerous swallowtails with 128 and 54 respectively. Seven species of sulphurs were noted with Little Yellow and Dainty Sulphur the most numerous. Gray and Red-banded were the only two hairstreaks seen but Grays totaled 92. Pearl and Phaon Crescents had only one each. Both American and Painted Ladies were seen. Fiery led the grass skippers with 106. Good numbers of Horace's and Zarucco Duskywings were seen. The big surprise was when a lone Ruddy Daggerwing was located and photographed in a field close to Reedy Creek, near the site of the original colony found in the late 1990s. This species has been absent since 2000 when its host plant, Strangler Fig, froze back. We ended the day with an excellent number - 63 species (sure to be one of the state's highest counts) and over 1000 butterflies. We have seen 79 species over the past thirteen years of the DWP count. Team members on June 28 were Ben Bindschadler, Joie Clifton, Jim DuBois, Libby Eastman, Sue Farnsworth, Kevin Kane, Diana Miller, Tom Palmer, Nancy Prine, Petra Royston, Laura Rudy, Karla Schramm, Dan Speelman, compiler Buck Cooper and the writer.



Ruddy Daggerwing
by Ben Bindschadler

Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary (KPS) northwest of Okeechobee is so named because the count started on the old Audubon property, just east of Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park (KPPSP). In 2002 KPS became part of the state park but retains the old name of the count. The park is 84 square miles of dry prairie, interspersed with marshes, cabbage palm and oak hammocks, wet prairie, sloughs, and riverine habitat. KPPSP has a nationwide reputation as THE place in Florida for skippers. This count continues to draw seasoned butterfly watchers as well as enthusiastic beginners. Eleven participants were split into four teams – three on state park property and one off park property. Thanks once again to Tom Palmer for covering the outside roadsides. He found a new species for the count – Hayhurst's Scallopwing for his efforts. Shade is hard to find anywhere in the area except in the oak/cabbage palm hammocks. They offer a brief respite from the blazing sun.

Summer rains had replenished most of the prairie wetlands. Despite the rains species such as Aaron's and Palatka Skippers, dependent on host plants requiring water, were in short supply. Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), a favorite of skippers was

almost nonexistent. Swallowtails and sulphurs were few except for Zebra with 45 and Little Yellow with 40. Gray and Red-banded were the only two hairstreaks. Little Metalmarks were down in numbers, recording only 16 this year. Common Buckeye made a good showing with 86. Twenty-eight species of skippers were found but the numbers were down from previous years. Roadsides full of unmowed *Phyla nodiflora*, a favorite of grass skippers, went mostly unnoticed by small butterflies. A highlight of this count continues to be good numbers of Palmetto Skippers – 54 this year. A second new species was added to the count this year – Three-spotted Skipper – when one was found and photographed in McGuire Hammock.

The count was cut short when a spectacular storm accompanied by much thunder and lightning rolled across the prairie at 4 P.M., a fitting end to a mostly cloudy day. To truly experience the prairie you need to watch storm clouds gather where the view is unobstructed for miles and miles. You can feel the strength of the storm as the thunder shakes your insides and the lightning cracks close by. We were thankful we were in a vehicle with rubber tires. Imagine what it would be like to be herding cattle, like early pioneers did in this area, when a storm threatens.



Three-spotted Skipper
by Linda Cooper



Storm

We ended the day with 56 species and over 1000 individuals. Our KPS species count total over thirteen years is 78. Team members on July 14 were Ben Bindschadler, Joie Clifton, Alana Edwards, Sue Farnsworth, Nancy Prine, Tom Palmer, Ronda Spink, Ellen Tannehill, Barbara Woodmansee, Buck Cooper and the writer.

Thanks to Disney Wilderness Preserve and KPPSP personnel for transportation and access. Thanks to all the participants who continue to make these counts fun and a learning experience for all. We greatly appreciate the support of Lake Region Audubon and welcome members' participation. The counts occur approximately the same time each year. Buck compiles six counts: one centered in the town of Okeechobee, one at Lake Louisa State Park near Clermont, Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County and the newest one in Polk – Colt Creek State Park plus these two. We also participate in eleven other counts. We hope to

have you join us on a NABA butterfly count next summer. You don't have to know butterflies. Extra eyes are a big help! To participate you can reach him at 863.439.2704.

The removal of ancient dunes as fill for new housing areas in east Polk continues unabated. Beautiful scrub sites and high sandhill dunes filled with native vegetation are mostly gone in our continuing efforts to pave over Polk. Disgusting and depressing to think that developers have so little regard for some of our most beautiful areas.

Grand Opening of Polk's Nature Discovery Center at Circle B Bar Reserve

Water, Wings and Wild Things on Saturday, November 1st will be the opening event for the re-opening of Circle B Bar Reserve a Polk County Environmental Lands site. Circle B Bar has been closed since Spring of 2007 for the construction of Polk's Nature Discovery Center, Circle B Bar is located on SR 540 2 miles east of US 98. Phone the Environmental Lands office at 534-7377 for additional information.

Spring Migration Count

By Paul Fellers

We can be proud of the 119 bird species observed in Polk County by the 16 of us in 9 teams who participated in the count on May 10, 2008. Our talliers were: Betty Butcher, Buck Cooper, Paul Fellers (compiler), Chuck Geanangel, Mae Hartsaw, Bill Karnofsky, Liz Lane, Marvel Loftus, Bonnie McCrady, Joe Misiaszek, Roy Morris, Herman Moulden, Tom Palmer, Fran Rego, Pete Timmer, and Les Twining.

Species of note in checklist order were: 132 American White Pelicans, 2 Brown Pelicans, Least Bittern, 13 Green Herons, 19 Black-crowned Night Herons, 29 Roseate Spoonbills (3 teams), 35 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, 2 Northern Shovelers (phosphate mines), Ring-necked and Ruddy Duck (both found on Lakeland lakes), 187 Ospreys (unreal high number), 7 Swallow-tailed Kites (3 teams), 20 Bald Eagles (southern subspecies), 3 Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrel (endangered southern subspecies), 29 Wild Turkeys, 29 Northern Bobwhites (good number for a severely declining species), 63 Sandhill Cranes (Florida subspecies), 9 Semipalmated Plovers (phosphate mines as were many of the other shorebird species), 105 Black-necked Stilts, 10 American Avocets, 5 White-rumped Sandpipers, 20 Dunlin (normally a coastal bird), 78 Stilt Sandpipers, 575 Black Skimmers, 29 Common Ground Doves (good number for this declining species), Yellow-billed Cuckoo ((Lake Kissimmee State Park (LKSP)), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Lakeland feeder), Belted Kingfisher (very late, Circle B-Bar Preserve), Red-headed Woodpecker (LKSP), 39 Great-crested Flycatchers, 10 Eastern Kingbirds (most are probably local breeders), 4 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 6 Florida Scrub Jays (LKSP), 2 Carolina Chickadees (LKSP), House Wren (very late), 6 Eastern Bluebirds (LKSP), 42 Cedar Waxwings (3 parties for a previously scarce species over the winter), Yellow-throated Vireo (southern Polk County), 62 Parula Warblers (high number; most teams), 4 American Redstarts (LKSP), 6 Summer Tanagers (LKSP), 3 Indigo Buntings (Bartow), 3 Bachman's Sparrows (LKSP), and 26 Bobolinks (2 parties).

The above results have been forwarded to Bob Henderson, State Coordinator, for inclusion with numerous other counts from around the U.S. and Canada in the Spring Migration Count.

On the Trail of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

By Paul Fellers

Folks had been asking me for some time to schedule a field trip primarily to observe endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW). So finally I did—on May 17, 2008, 16 of us got up real early and headed for Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, just north of Yeehaw Junction. I had been over there 3 times in the previous year, so was pretty well prepared for this trip.

My field trips are really nature trips with the emphasis on birds, flowers or scenery depending on the trip. Our first stop was along Peavine Road where a great wildflower display awaited us—lots of Leafless-beaked Orchids (or as I like to call them, Scarlet Ladies' Tresses; *Sacoila lanceolata*), a species of Ladies' Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes*), several colors of blooming Blueheart (*Buchnera americana*), Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*; Florida's state flower), and Southern Guara (*G. angustifolia*). Joining us on a nearby snag was a pair of Northern Caracaras—awesome! We observed 4 for the day. At least 50 Eastern Meadowlarks were in evidence along Peavine Road.

The Williams Rd. entrance to 3-Lakes is 4.9 mi. north of Kenansville on Rte. 441. Williams Rd. is where a small fee is assessed, and actually a good spot for Eastern Bluebird, Bachman's Sparrow, and RCWs. About 3.8 mi. in on Williams Rd. and then Road 1 on the north side of the road at the edge of a cypress head after the intersection with Road 21, we found an extraordinary wildflower bonanza. Included were 8 Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) orchids, lots of Hooded Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia minor*); some of the largest Sundew plants (*Droscera capillaris*) that I've seen; and many Bog Bachelor-buttons (*Polygala lutea*). The next mile or so is the best area that I know for observing RCWs. We found 2 RCWs, the first one, unfortunately, being missed by most of the group. However, the second one was feeding young in a "marked" tree fairly close to the road and everyone had super good looks at one of our rarest North American birds. Mission accomplished! We could hear young birds at the nest hole. At a marked tree back about 100 yards I put my scope on a nest hole, and lo and behold, there were 2 big eyes staring back at me—they belonged to a Screech Owl! In the same area we watched a Bachman's Sparrow carrying nesting material while flitting around us, obviously waiting rather impatiently for us to leave. We heard several others during the day. Brown-headed nuthatches were seen and heard at several locations. We observed six in all. Lunch was enjoyed at a spot along Road 1 where some huge oaks created a beautiful sylvan setting.

Then it was back out to Rt. 441 and west on Rte. 523 (Canoe Creek Rd) where we headed for Joe Overstreet Landing. Here we spotted a few birds, but no Snail Kite, the chief reason for going there. Kites are in serious decline, primarily due to our extended drought.

The Prairie Lakes Unit of 3-Lakes was our final destination, also located off Canoe Creek Rd. Road 16 took us to the Lake Jackson/Lake Kissimmee Canal and the parking area for the hike to the observation tower overlooking Lake Jackson. The highlight here was the half-mile hike mostly through a jungle of Cabbage Palms. But it was great: first we spotted an extremely late migrant female American Redstart, then a Barn Owl in the treetops—my first one in several years. Poor Lake Jackson didn't have much water in it; nevertheless, the view was very nice. Least Bittern, 4 Green-backed Herons, and several other wading birds were sighted. A pair of Limpkins graced the Canal banks. Our adventure was just about wound up except for the 2-hour drive home. A few other birds of note for the day were 2 Wood Storks, 8 Ospreys, 5 Swallow-tailed Kites, immature Bald Eagle, southern sub-species American Kestrel, 14 Sandhill Cranes, 25 Great-crested Flycatchers, 15 Eastern Bluebirds, and at Twin Lakes just off Rte. 60 in Lake Wales, 58 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. It was a long day, but it was a very good day in the field for both birds and flowers; there was some neat scenery, and lots of camaraderie. See you on the trail.

A Late Spring Day at the Avon Park Air Force Range

By Paul Fellers

What kind of a day was it at the APAFR May 31st for the 18 of us including 2 children?—I'll tell you, it was a warm one with temperatures on 2 different vehicles in the afternoon recording 103 and 104 degrees F! Needless to say, we seemed to be drinking something all the time. Flowers were at a minimum along the six miles of School Bus Rd. through Arbuckle State Forest, victim of sparse rainfall. The prior year we enjoyed great flowers there. However, we did observe a Cooper's Hawk perched on a dead snag, and some of the group spotted a pair of Scrub Jays near the entrance to Ruck's Dairy Rd.

At our first stop in the Range on Smith Rd. we noted that the normally wet area nearby was totally dry. A few flowers there were Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Yellow Bachelor's Button (*Polygala rugelii*), Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*; Florida's state wildflower), and others. Along Ebersbach Rd. a few flowers of note were Yucca (*Y. filamentosa*), lots of *Hypericum reductum*, a few Tarflowers (*Befaria racemosa*; some of the folks who were not familiar with the flower felt the base of the flowers to experience its stickiness), and several *Agalinis fasciculata* at the end of the road in the pasture.

Along Kissimmee Rd. before Morgan Hole were Yellow Colic-root (*Aletris lutea*), White Tops (*Rynchospora colorata*), Loosestrife (*Lythrum alatum*), and Mist Flower or Ageratum (*Conoclinium coelestinum*). At Morgan Hole, most of the Butterfly Orchids (*Encyclia tampensis*) were still in bud, but we did find some in bloom. A highlight of the whole trip was having four Crested Caracaras flying about close by along Kissimmee Rd. near the Kissimmee River. We enjoyed great looks at the birds for several minutes. Lunch was enjoyed in fine style at picnic tables overlooking the River.

Durden Rd. was our destination after lunch. It was as awesome as ever even though no water was present at the seep or in the ditch along the road. Hooded Pitcher Plants (*Sarracenia minor*) were abundant; we noted at least a dozen Rose Pogonia Orchids (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*); lots of Grass Pink Orchids (*Calopogon tuberosus*) were at the seep and elsewhere; Sundew (*Drosera capillaris*) was luxuriant; a few uncommon milkweed *Asclepias pedicellata* were in the seep area; Foxtail Bog Club Moss (*Lycopodiella cernua*) was in the seep, an ancient type of plant; finally, several rare Snowy Orchids (*Platanthera nivea*) were located a little beyond the seep. The area across the road from the seep that they had been located previously had been burned recently. A couple of good birds seen in this area were a Brown-headed Nuthatch, several Swallow-tailed Kites, and an endangered Florida subspecies Grasshopper Sparrow.

At a small pond along Smith Rd. below Bravo Range, we found a Green Heron, White Ibis, Great Blue Heron, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron that flew in, and a group of Wild Turkeys feeding along the edge. We had time for just one more stop, so the boardwalk out to Lake Arbuckle was it. The ferns were as luxuriant as ever, but the swamp was dry and the lake was way down. We could hear a Limpkin wailing all the way from across the lake. A couple of Ospreys soared overhead. The view from the tower out over the lake with its huge crop of Spatter-dock (*Nuphar luteum*) and the surrounding forest is one of the best in all Polk County. On the way back to the Natural Resources Building we watched a slightly lame mama Wild Turkey cross the road with a single chick. According to the ranger at the station, that mother had 3 chicks the week before. He believes that the extreme heat was probably the culprit for the demise of the 2 chicks and probably others of the clutch earlier. Over the years he has noted that Turkey chicks fare poorly in hot dry weather.

At any rate, we ended the day with perhaps 75 flowers and plants identified and 44 bird species. Some other birds of note seen were 2 Mottled Ducks, a total of 8 Swallow-tailed Kites, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawk, the endangered Southern subspecies of American Kestrel, 4 Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, and 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Other than being decidedly warm, it was another fine day in the field.

Costa Rica Birding

Bob Snow

My first birding experience outside the U.S. was a trip to Costa Rica, May 3rd. I met my good friend, Bob Hooton, and our guide Richard Garrigues, at the San Jose Airport. Richard is the author of *Birds of Costa Rica*, and has been a resident of Costa Rica for the past twenty-six years. The rainy season had just begun and it was pouring, while we loaded the vehicle. Fortunately, we only lost one afternoon of birding because of rain.

Our birding started right away with fifteen new species, on the way to our first stop, Arenal Volcano. Richard said the last major eruption was in 1968, but daily emissions continue. We started birding in earnest the next morning, and virtually every bird was a lifer. The first few days, were almost more than I could absorb, but it was a great experience. Richard was well versed not only in bird identification, songs, calls, etc. but also the different habitats, and the natural history of the country. We covered a lot of the country in our four wheel drive SUV. Our only request of Richard, prior to the trip, was that we see as much of the country as possible during our two week stay. We were fortunate at the various lodges we called home, in that they were very gracious and the food was good. I especially enjoyed the fresh fruit every morning.



Fiery-billed Aracari
by Bob Snow

Since it is impossible to list all the birds we observed on the trip, the species that stand out were the obvious favorites that everyone looks for in Costa Rica. Motmots were not only beautiful, but intriguing with their pendulum-swinging tails. Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, toucans, trogons, Blue Dacnis, honeycreepers, manakins, cotingas, Passerini's / Cherie's Tanagers, oropendolas, the numerous flycatchers, wrens, and hummingbirds, were just a few of the wonderful birds we saw. One of the most memorable experiences was the mating display of the White-collared Manakin. Their bouncing, wing-snapping displays were something to witness. I was overwhelmed by the number and diversity of the hummingbirds, from the larger, more colorful Violet Sabrewing, Green Hermit, and Long-billed Hermit, to the diminutive Snowcap Hummingbird, Volcano Hummingbird, and Violet-headed Hummingbird. I was fortunate to observe thirty-eight species of hummingbirds on the trip. I noticed that the hummingbirds were attracted to Porterweed, which seemed to be everywhere, and was one of their favorite nectar sources.

Monkeys, Spider Monkeys, and White-faced Capuchins. I missed seeing the only Fer de Lance of the trip, which was observed one evening, by several people at The Villa Lapas Lodge. I did get close-up views and photos of two Eyelash Vipers. There were some incredible insects, such as giant tropical beetles, beautiful butterflies, Army Ants, and the infamous Bullet Ant, which according to the

We also observed reptiles such as American Crocodiles, Iguanas, Ctenosaur Lizards, Geckos, and mammals such as Sloths, agoutis, peccaries, Howler



Rufous-tailed Jacamar
by Bob Snow

locals, has an extremely painful sting. We observed an Army Ant column, and the bird feeding activity at the head of the column, which was quite a sight. The birds take advantage of the insect buffet created by insects trying to escape the Army Ants.

From the hot, humid lowlands, to the cool mountains, the birding and scenery in Costa Rica were great. My total list for the trip was 397 species, with 318 life birds. I heartily recommend this

birding experience. I know many of you have been to Costa Rica, as well as other exotic destinations. My first tropical birding experience was great, and has already made me think about future birding destinations.



Eyelash Viper
by Bob Snow

BIRD CLUB'S TRIP, APRIL 3 2008**MORRIS HOUSE, OVERTREET LANDING and THREE LAKES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

On April 3, 2008, we had the privileged to go to the fantastic yard of Rita Morris as she once again welcomed us with open arms. The Painted Buntings did not disappoint us. Some of us saw them right away and they showed up again after wait about an hour. After watching Red-winged Blackbirds, a little green jewel female Painted Bunting sneaked in to get a few samples from the feeder. Well, we all thought that was nice and at least we got to see a Painted Bunting. Oh how we wished the male Painted Bunting would get the courage to come to the feeder. We were thinking that we really should leave. After all it was after 10:30 and some of us have been there since 9:00. Then news from the back porch that they had a Male Painted Bunting and right after that one came to the feeder near the Florida Room. There he was, a multi-colored little bird, his head is blue-violet, green on his back, and the rest of him a bright red. We left her house very thankful.

After seeing the bunting, we would really have to call this a Caracara Day. I believe we saw a total of 10. More than half were at River Ranch. In a field by the security gate there were a pair of adult Caracara with 2 immature birds. You didn't have to have binoculars to see their beautiful blue beak of the Northern (formerly Crested) adult caracara. I believe they were nesting in one of the two palm trees in the middle of the field and we watch the immature caracara begging for food under one of these palm trees. In the same field we had wonderful look at Eastern Meadowlark. Along Peavine Road the only sparrows we saw were the Savannah Sparrow. We did hear the song of the Bachman's Sparrow in the distance but we couldn't confirm it so we didn't count it. Overstreet Boat Landing did have cranes, but the only ones that we saw were the Sandhills. Whooping Cranes were at their usual spot last Sunday but not on Thursday. Snail Kites were seen with the use of our scopes so that was nice. Three Lakes WMA didn't produce the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. With Day Light Savings Time, it was too early for them to be heading back to their nest holes. I did see two active nest holes in the trees with the white ring painted on them. To see Red-cockaded Woodpecker, you either have to be there at sunrise or sunset. Sometimes you can find them while they are feeding in the area. We were greeted by a group of nesting Eastern Bluebirds and a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler and that was fun. The rain held off until we were driving home. I believe everyone thought it was a wonderful day. We had a total of 64 Species.

If anyone wishes to join us on these Bird Club's trips all they have to do is contact me. Everyone is welcome. Our organization meeting will be the first Thursday in November, 2008.

Come join the fun. Marvel Loftus, phone 863 324 9657

Bird Club

Organization Meeting to set up the trip schedule and car pools will be held at the Street Audubon Nature Center on Nov. 6, 2008 at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Bird Club meets most Thursdays from the middle of November to the first week in April, except during the Holidays. We meet at different locations depending on where we are going each week, driving in car pools which are organized by our Telephone committee. We do short hikes but never much more than a mile at a time. Most of the time we bring a picnic lunch and end our day shortly afterwards. This year our destinations will be much closer to home because of the gas prices but this will be up for discussion at this meeting. Drivers are always needed but their expenses should be covered by the riders. If you can drive, please inform your Telephone Committee person. This Telephone Committee is what keeps this Bird Club organized. Please consider volunteering for this position. The members who wished to be on the calling membership list are called at the beginning of each week to inform them as to where we are meeting and where we are going. Schedules do get changed for many reasons but by this method everyone gets the necessary information. I also send out e-mails and will always help someone who needs a ride but with so many members it is more easily done by the Telephone Committee. As you can see this is a very important meeting. If you are member or interested in joining this friendly group, please make it a point to attend. Bring your ideas and tell us what birds you would like to see, This is where we solve the problems that can be solved. I am looking forward to another great year. If you have any questions please give me a call, 863 324 9657 / 863 289 8188 or better yet, e-mail, marvel.loftus@gmail.com.

Marvel Loftus

Christmas Party

Just a reminder to circle you calendar for our Annual Christmas Party which will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the Street Audubon Nature Center, 2:00 PM. We will have some wonderful entertainment as usual and will be treated by the delicious finger food that everyone brings to pass around. Come join us and be part of the great spirit of the season. Music by the "Fine Wine", Clayton & Martie Seawright.

Marvel Loftus, Program Chairman

Pizza & Film

Our new year of Films and Pizza will begin on Monday, Nov. 3, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Street Audubon Nature Center. We should add that we also serve a salad. The price is \$1.00 for each piece of Pizza or one serving of salad. The second piece or another serving of salad will cost an additional \$1.00. A beverage, chips, and cookies are included. Where else can you get a good pizza or salad for \$1.00 and watch a great film too. On Nov. 3rd the film will be, "Six Degrees Could Change the World". It is amazing to watch what just 1 degree will do to our world.

The Pizza & Film will continue on the first Monday of every month until April, 2009 so circle your calendar. On Dec. 1, 2008, we will show "Into the Wild". This is a movie on a real life incident. It should give us something to think about when we take off into the wilderness by ourselves.

See you there. Marvel Loftus, Program Chrm, 863 324 9657, marvel.loftus@gmail.com

Instructions for Viewing & Uploading Pictures on LRAS Website www.lakeregion.net

If you wish to view pictures:

To view the pictures on the website, click the link entitled "Photo Gallery".

Each picture you will see is in fact the cover page of an album. Click on any picture to open the album. Each album may hold only pictures or may hold sub-albums. The label under the picture will tell you if the thumbnail is an album. Click on an album cover to see the underlying photos.

Photos can be seen from just the small thumbnails. Clicking on the thumbnail will bring up the picture in a larger format.

You can view an automated slide show of all the pictures within an album one of two ways; first, by clicking on "View Slideshow" in the left column. Then you can set the parameters of the show by adjusting the options at the top. Second, you can click on "View Slideshow (full screen)" in the left column. To exit this presentation, you will have to hit your "escape" key on your keyboard.

If you wish to upload your first picture(s):

We ask that **only members of LRAS upload pictures** to our Gallery. We also ask that pictures be limited to having a wildlife theme or Audubon Society activities.

Click on the link entitled "Photo Gallery". Once there, go to the upper right corner of the screen and click on "Register". You will have to register to set up your own files. Once done, you can proceed to upload your pictures.

We would like to have the master album for each member be entitled with just your name. Sub albums can be labeled as you choose. Before beginning, try to organize how you wish to present your pictures. It is much easier to upload them into the files to where you want them, rather than moving them later. A well organized presentation will make it easier for viewers to find what they are looking for, and will make their viewing experience a pleasant one.

If you wish to upload additional picture(s):

Click on the link entitled "Photo Gallery". Once there, go to the upper right corner of the screen and click on "login". This will bring you to your photos, and you will have all the rights to manage them, and add new pictures.

To add an album, click on the master album (or a sub album if that is where you wish to place the new album), then in the left column click on "add album". The rest should be self explanatory.

To add one or more pictures, click on the album in which they are to reside, then in the left column click on "add items". Click on "Upload Applet". Click on "Add Pictures...". The rest should be self explanatory. Once all your pictures have been selected, click on the "Upload" bar at the lower right.

"Blessed are they who have nothing to say and who cannot be persuaded to say it."

James Russell Lowell

Florida Bird20Conservation Initiative

Submitted by Linda Cooper

For those of you that haven't heard, several organizations and agencies in Florida are helping develop a new program called the **Florida Bird20Conservation Initiative**. We have recently launched our website and welcome you to visit http://www.myfwc.com/FBCI/FBCI_index.htm for more information about the program. The FBCI website is meant to serve as a clearinghouse of information on bird conservation in Florida and we hope you will come to view it as a helpful tool. The website will always be a work in progress and we encourage any input to improve it. Specifically, please review the site and send in any additional information that you think should be included.

Please be sure to stop by the "Projects" page on the site and take a few minutes to **enter your avian projects into our project database**. This database will be a searchable and comprehensive snapshot of avian research going on in Florida.

We need your help and participation to improve communication among those of us working with bird conservation in Florida! We also encourage you to **join our listserv** and stay connected with the avian community in Florida (see directions below)! Please pass this email onto anyone who may be interested in learning more about the **Florida Bird Conservation Initiative**.

Joining the FBCI listserv:

—Send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com

—Leave the subject line blank, and in the first line of the message body, type "Subscribe FBCI-L" (without the quotation marks).

—Then click the link in the confirmation e-mail to verify that we have your correct e-mail address. **FWC employees may click on the link; non-FWC employees can reply to the confirmation message, with the subject line left intact and "OK" (no quotes) in the message body.**

You may unsubscribe (leave the list) at any time. Send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MyFWC.com with nothing in the subject line and "Signoff Join-FBCI-L" in the first line of the message body (no quotes). Once you join the listserv, you will receive instructions on how to post and reply to the listserv. There is also an option to receive all emails in digest form or individually. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Elena.Sachs@myfwc.com or 352-732-1225.

\$5 gas, the silver lining

Yesterday it cost me nearly 70 bucks to fill up my Ford Explorer. Needless to say, I was not in a very good mood for the rest of that day. Yet, now that I think about the totality of the experience, several positive implications come to mind. For starters, the driving public will have to make numerous adjustments in their driving styles. People will slow down for sure. Clearly driving at 45 mph is more economical than 75 and much safer too. Jack rabbit starts are out. Car pooling will be back in style and unnecessary trips are a no-no. Folks will plan their daily trips better. If you go to your most distant stop first your car warms up and uses fuel more efficiently. Cars will spend more time in the garage and busses, bicycles and even trains will be used. Keeping your tire pressure up to the printed maxim will increase your gas mileage. If you're going to be stationary for more than 10 seconds, turn your engine off. Use cruise control whenever you can. Parking where you can avoid backing up to depart is safer and saves gas. These little tips will increase your gas mileage up to 25%. Remember, 10% saves you \$7 a fill-up and 25% saves you \$18.

On a broader scale, all of the alternative energy sources like solar, wind, geothermal, and fuel cells are now more competitive. When oil cost more than \$50 a barrel the vast deposits of tar sands and shale oil found in the western US and Canada becomes economically feasible. Today the price of oil was \$133 and moving up. People are rushing to buy smaller cars and hybrids. We are even taking a second look at nuclear power. Major problems remain but anything may be better than using expensive foreign oil. The bottom line is that maybe now we can take a serious look at reducing greenhouse gasses. Hey I feel better already.

Charles Geanangel, Winter Haven, 5/22/08

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**

Solar energy revisited

Solar energy has long been touted as an alternative to the importation of foreign oil while helping solve the energy crisis. Global warming concerns about carbon dioxide release have also played a part in the growing interest in solar power. Solar panels (solar photovoltaic) have produced a lot of press lately and advances are announced almost monthly, however another solar technology is potentially far more important. This technology is cheaper; less than 10 cents per kilowatt hour, virtually carbon dioxide and pollution free and reliable over much of America. It has been calculated that a 92 square mile grid in our desert southwest could theoretically produce enough energy for the entire United States.

Solar electric thermal or concentrated solar power (CSP) is an old technology based on using long mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays to heat a fluid to 700 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. It suffers only from the availability of cheap oil and natural gas. Unfortunately those days are gone, with oil over \$120 a barrel and a world nervous about carbon emissions and global warming. CSP may be our salvation.

Making electricity is fairly straight forward. Water is heated, using coal, oil, natural gas, or nuclear, to produce steam. The steam is forced past the blades of a turbine generator, causing them to spin, and out flows electricity. The advantages of CSP is that it uses mirrors focusing sunlight on pipes filled with a fluid like oil or molten salt, which can retain high temperatures for hours, to produce heat. This heats water producing steam which spins the turbine without any pollution or carbon emission. The beauty of the operation is that when the sun goes down you can store heat from the molten salt, which can be stored 20 to 100 times more cheaply and efficiently than storing electricity. Thus the station can produce power 24/7. For example a CSP plant in Nevada produces 64 MW of electricity from 98% solar power and only 2% natural gas. Nuclear power is also carbon free but is potentially dangerous and is heavily subsidized by the government. Over the years nuclear power research and development has exceeded \$80 billion. Meanwhile CSP plants are already on line in Spain, China and at least three American states. Dozens more are in advanced planning stages. No government money will be required, only a commitment to the use of alternative, green power. A Federal bill requiring a 20% alternative energy production for the nation would be the only incentive required.

CSP uses very little water because it is air cooled. In Florida it could be used to desalinate sea water. It would be a boon to less developed countries with few natural resources.

Al Gore wants to switch our production of energy to alternative green sources. CSP plants can help make his dream come true. It can happen perhaps not in ten years but easily before 2050. If America can produce electricity safely, cheaply, and cleanly without using foreign oil, we may be number one once again. Add to that electrically driven automobiles and trucks and maybe, just maybe, we can make the world a better place. Charles Geanangel, Winter Haven

A Fishing Cooper's Hawk

By Bill & Rose Karnofsky

Fish scales and tails in my birdfeeder?? Perhaps one of the local Ospreys has chosen to sit on our open birdfeeder in our back yard to partake of a meal. They often sit in our tree, but neither Rose nor I have ever seen them perch on the birdfeeder. Then, one evening in the middle of August, while we were having dinner, in flew our resident Cooper's Hawk, perching on the birdfeeder. It looked around for a moment or two, and then began eating something. Out came the binoculars to focus on what the meal of the day was. It was difficult to focus through the screen because the feeder is so close to the house. We watched as it appeared he ripped out a gray tail feather. Immediately we thought it might have been a small bird like a Titmouse. Then another one was discarded. Soon he finished his meal and off he flew.

I then left my dinner and went to the feeder to see what remained. To my utmost surprise, it was a fish skeleton along with the tail, half of which had been ripped into long strips (so much for the tail feathers of a Titmouse).

The next day I mentioned this to my next door neighbor and to my amazement he said, "Oh, sure, I have watched the Cooper's fish right off my back yard." I asked what he was talking about and he explained that recently he watched the hawk hit the water the way the Ospreys do, sort of like a belly flop. Other times he flies along the water with just his feet hitting the water the way an Eagle might do. Since he is not an experienced birder, just a guy who likes his back yard birds, he thought nothing of it.

We have been on the watch to see if we are lucky enough to observe this behavior for ourselves. As of the writing of this brief story, we have not been successful.

Our question to our fellow members, have any of you ever observed such behavior by a Cooper's Hawk?

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, 1439 Grand Cayman Cir., 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.

**Support our advertisers
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If you would like to receive email notification that the newsletter has been posted on the Lake Region web site (www.lakeregion.com), visit the site and click on the link to receive the newsletter via email.

"Over the long haul of life on this planet, it is the ecologists, and not the bookkeepers of business, who are the ultimate accountants." Stuart Udall

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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Open House

Street Audubon Nature Center

Sunday, January 18, 2000 at 2:00 PM

This is one of our main fund raisers of the year. We need volunteers to make this program work. We will have our first meeting on Wed. Oct 22, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Nature Center. Please come with ideas and suggestions..

Marvel Loftus

2008 - 2009 OFFICERS

Steering Committee:

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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.

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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 1439 Grand Cayman Cir
 Winter Haven, FL 33884.

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

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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

Herman photographed this young Purple Gallinule on September 10, 2008 at Circle B Bar Reserve.

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

www.lakeregion.net