



Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884

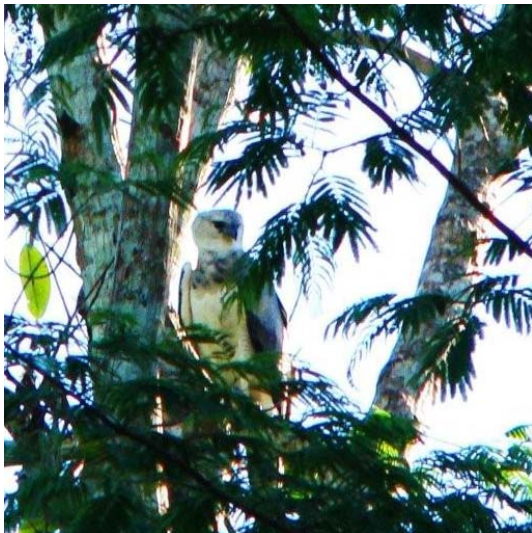


Howe House

Brazil Chapter Two Charles Geanangel

The city of Cuiaba is three hours by airplane, west of Sao Paulo and is the jumping off place to the wilderness of the Amazonian interior. Our destination is the village of Alta Floresta on the cutting edge of the so-called arc of destruction. The loggers have been moving from the east and south for generations and now threaten the heart of the vast Amazon rainforest. Much of the logging today is illegal and the government is ill equipped to stop it. On our two hour flight north from Cuiaba the only signs of life below are enormous fields of soybeans and other crops. In 400 miles not a single village is visible from the air. Alta Floresta,

which lies almost in the center of Brazil, is the end of the line for us. With most buildings less than 25 years old it has a raw look. A generation ago this was all virgin rainforest. Therefore when we spotted a magnificent young Harpy Eagle in one of the forest remnants near town it was heart stopping. Not exactly an Ivory-billed Woodpecker sighting but close. For



Harpy Eagle
Chuck Geanangel

the first bird of a trip to be a mega rarity was unheard of. Our guide, Braulio Carlos of the Pantanal Bird Club earned his tip in that first one half hour. Few birders ever see this bird and to photograph one is even rarer. Still in a daze we were off to our home for the next 6 days at the Cristalino Jungle Lodge. An hour's hard

drive in a jeep to the rivers edge and then thirty minutes by boat up the pristine Cristalino River brought us to our lodge. The owner, Vitoria Carvalho, told us that the idea for the lodge came from the late birding great, Ted Parker, and many other American bird watching luminaries all have spent time on this property. Go to this site for more information. (<http://www.amazonadventures.com/cristalino.htm>) We are standing in the midst of nearly six million acres of primary Amazonian jungle. One can imagine that the sights and sounds here have been little changed in the past million years. The lodge itself is situated on several acres of a large private nature preserve. Twelve miles of trails are accessible from the grounds which include a 150 foot viewing tower. A generator supplies the power and it is operational only at meal time and in the evenings to 10 pm. If you are up at 4:30 am like us, "It's candlelight baby." A word about the wonderful food; it's all served buffet style. Breakfast is typical Brazilian fare. Lunch and supper is a large salad, rice and beans, a nice meat dish, a starch and dessert. Soft drinks, beer, and wine are available also. There was always something different and every meal was delicious. I especially liked the starches of cassava and plantain which I rarely find in the US. But this was a birding trip and birds we had in spades. Over 575 species have been



River Cruise

found in the nearby area and we did our best to see what was available. In Polk County, if you walk the same trail every day, the birds you see will be about the same. However, in the jungle, the same trail will yield a different variety of species day after day. In six days we found about 160 different species and we never were more than a couple of miles from our room. Just a few of the birds we observed include Undulated Tinamou, Agami Heron, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, King Vulture, Black Caracara, Red-throated Piping Guan, Razor-billed Curassow, Dark winged Trumpeter, Hoatzin, Sunbittern and numerous antbirds. Most antbirds don't actually eat ants but they feast on the bugs dislodged by the ant swarms.

Our itinerary was up before dawn, breakfast, and on to one of the trails by first light. Pete, I and the two guides then carefully explore the jungle until noon. We walked back to the lodge for lunch and took a break until about 3:30. Bird life is scarce mid day so we boarded one of the boats for some river birding. Motoring up river is pleasant and we were able to access several trails on the far side of the river. One of my favorite memories was drifting slowly down river with only the sounds of the local environment washing over me. Solitude can be found in the jungle. The edge of the river provides views of many birds as well as Dwarf Caiman, Speckled Cayman, Giant Otter, River Otter, Capybara, and a variety of turtles. I was disappointed in not seeing a single snake or cats of any kind. The only monkeys we saw were Brown Capuchin and White-nosed Bearded Saki but they both



Cristalino Jungle Lodge

were fairly common. Interesting as the birds were, just being in the Amazon basin was the biggest thrill. For 60 years I had read about the Amazon rain forest and now I was experiencing it first hand. A birdwatcher's bucket list for sure. If you are not familiar with the term, it's the things you want to accomplish in life before you kick the bucket. You ask about insects and surprisingly they were not a problem. We did find one large swarm of ants but we escaped with only a couple of bites. Is this entire remote wilderness worth saving for future generations? You bet. Ecologists call the Amazon jungle 'the lungs of the planet'. Should you visit there? An enthusiastic YES!

Circle B Bar Reserve - Duck Shoot Post Shoot Bird Count

Chuck Geanangel

To determine what effect duck hunting would have on the bird population of the marshes at the Circle B Bar Reserve near Lakeland five counters were selected to do a pre and post-hunt bird count there. I was one of the counters on both counts which included two duck hunters, a staff biologist and a photographer /birdwatcher. The final numbers we submitted were agreed upon by all five observers. The total number of birds observed was down primarily because 90% of the ducks were gone. On the pre-hunt we counted 466 ducks of 10 species while the post hunt turned up only 41 ducks of 7 species. I have not seen the total number of ducks killed in the two day hunt but it was considerable. We did find a flock of Blue-winged Teal on a site outside of the hunting area later in the day but they left immediately upon us arriving. I estimated no more than 100 ducks but they were so skittish that an accurate count was impossible. The important number to remember is that only about one half of the target marsh birds were visible on the day after the hunt. That would explain why the second count did not take as long as the first count to complete and further it demonstrated that the area is far too small to sustain such an intensive hunt. A 90% reduction is not acceptable especially when the park is shared by hundreds of other members of the public eager to see the wildlife. When a visitor takes a picture of a bird it is there the next day for the other visitors to enjoy but when you take six ducks home and put them on your grill only you can enjoy them. We have further counts planned and then we can see what the true recovery rate of the ducks will be. Another 2 day hunt is planned for January.

Editor's note: I was granted permission to observe the eagle's nest located at the edge of the marsh during the duck shoot. This nesting pair was sitting eggs during the shoot. I observed clear disturbance of the eagle on the nest and the efforts of the mate to get to the nest. Each time it flew in to land at the nest there was a volley of gunfire and it would leave the area. The sitting eagle once left the nest and flew a short distance before returning to the nest. **See page 7 for contact information to voice your opinion to the County Commissioners.** Editor

LAKE KISSIMMEE STATE PARK BUTTERFLY SURVEY

Linda F. Cooper

We saw one Soldier along the Zipperer Canal, then another and another. We weren't expecting Soldiers! These Soldiers weren't hidden in camouflage fatigues, but very visible. Flashing their reddish golden color for us to enjoy they continued nectaring on Fireweed *Erechtites hieracifolia*, a nondescript plant in the Aster family. With butterflies, always expect the unexpected and you are

never disappointed. Though we found Soldier only in April, our access to this area along the canal was cut off by summer rains and flooded roads.

Soldier typically occurs in more tropical areas of the state though they have become regular in Polk over the past few years. What else would we find?



Soldier



Soldier

In 1977 Lake Kissimmee State Park opened its 5,030 acres to the public. The state park property was purchased from the estate of William Zipperer. Lake Region Audubon surveyed it for birds in 1979.

When another opportunity came along to survey birds in 2008, we jumped at the chance to survey butterflies also. Another 900 acres was added to the park's western boundary in 1997. Several butterflies were found in the additional acreage that were not found in other areas of the park.

The park's habitats range from seasonal marshes, lake edges (Lakes Kissimmee, Rosalie and Tiger), pine flatwoods, and shady oak hammocks to scrub — 12 distinct natural communities, making it an ideal place not only for birds but also for butterflies.

Our survey leader Buck Cooper assembled two teams – one to survey areas north of Zipperer Canal and one to survey south of Zipperer Canal. Andy Nolan, park manager, and Erik Egensteiner, park biologist, encouraged us to survey as much of the park as possible, giving us access to all areas. On occasion the teams would combine to survey what we considered 'hot spots' of butterfly activity.

January and February are typically slow months for butterfly activity with cooler weather and limited nectar sources. We were surprised when Carolina Willow *Salix caroliniana* brought out White M and Red-banded Hairstreaks. Red-banded was the only hairstreak seen all 12 months though Gray Hairstreak was more numerous.

March brought the biggest number of Palamedes Swallowtails with over 100 seen. Palamedes was by far the most numerous swallowtail and the only one seen all 12 months of the survey. No sulphurs or whites were seen all 12 months though Cloudless Sulphur, our most common sulphur was seen all but one month. An uncommon sulphur in our area, Southern Dogface, was seen only once. The two 'blue' butterflies, Cassius and Ceraunus, were scarce at the park. Little Metalmark was seen 9 of the 12 months. Gulf Fritillary was seen all 12 months and peaked in October with almost 300 seen. Phaon Crescent was seen only 1 month but Pearl was more numerous and seen 10 months. Question Mark was one we missed after summer rains began and our best hammock for them was no longer accessible. White Peacock was found all 12 months and Common Buckeye missed being seen only in July. Emperors began to show up in June in what we designated as 'Hackberry Hammock', in the new western addition. Tawny Emperors were more numerous than Hackberry Emperors and seen six times during the survey. Carolina Satyr was seen all 12 months and the most numerous butterfly seen during the survey with almost 1400 recorded. It is a common butterfly in dry oak hammocks. Over 1000 Queens were seen and one of the few butterflies found all 12 months. When the bird teams reported they were 'distracted' by all the Queens flying in May and June you know there were a lot of Queens!



Little Metalmark

Long-tailed Skippers were well represented with over 125 in October though they were absent in the park during summer months. All expected cloudywing and duskywing species were present with Horace's Duskywing the most numerous by far. Of the small fold-wing skippers, Whirlabout and Clouded were the most numerous and seen all 12 months but Delaware wasn't far behind in numbers. Aaron's, Palmetto and Palatka are not commonly seen but all three were recorded in very small numbers during the survey. Ocola Skippers made a good showing in October and November when they flood the state during migration.

I told you earlier to always expect the unexpected when looking for butterflies. As we walked through one of the hammocks south of Zipperer Canal, I thought to myself, 'This looks like one of the hammocks we find Three-spotted Skippers in at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. It has the same understory and, oh, there is its host plant.' No sooner had those thoughts fluttered through my mind than up popped a Three-spotted Skipper! This is another tropical skipper expanding its way north. For the next two months, a Three-spotted popped up within a few yards of where the first one was seen and photographed. A new record for Polk County!



Three-spotted Skipper

We recorded 38 species of regular butterflies and 31 species of skippers during the survey for a total of 69 species and over 6400 individuals. The highest number of species was 45, seen in June. The highest number of individuals was in October with 1242.

Thanks to Lake Kissimmee State Park manager Andy Nolan and biologist Erik Egensteiner for their cooperation and encouragement. Thanks to our regular team members Ben Bindschadler, Lakeland; Dave and Marga Cutler, Avon Park; Jim DuBois, Lake Wales and Sue Farnsworth, Winter Springs. Also assisting were Byron Bratlie, Winter Haven; Lois Smith, Lake Wales and Erik Egensteiner when his park work schedule allowed. Buck Cooper, Haines City, coordinated the teams and cracked the whip to keep them focused on their job. I did the data entry and saw that team members and park personnel got copies of the surveys as well as posting them to the Internet. The park will receive a **Butterfly Checklist** with flight dates and abundance based on our one year survey. Thanks to all the volunteers for giving 524 hours to Florida State Parks in 2008! We couldn't do these surveys without you. Photos by Linda Cooper

Saddle Creek

Fall 2008

Bob Snow

The 2008 migration season is over and the total number of birds passing through Saddle Creek was lower than previous years. While there were some good birds observed, there were also several "misses" this year. There were no "fallouts" this season at Saddle Creek. The highest number of warbler species observed on our walks was sixteen on October 18th. On this date, we saw a Nashville Warbler (my first for Saddle Creek), Magnolia Warbler, multiple Tennessee Warblers, two Blackburnian Warblers, a late Prothonotary Warbler, two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and an immature Bay-breasted Warbler. The last Saturday, October 25th, Roy Morris pointed out a Magnificent Frigatebird soaring overhead for all of us to see. We observed a total of 15 warbler species on this date, including one Blackpoll Warbler.

No Cerulean Warblers, Kentucky Warblers or Golden-winged Warblers were reported for the season. Two separate Canada Warblers were observed by Roy Morris and Paul Fellers. Our resident Short-tailed Hawks made a few appearances, but were not observed every week. Paul Fellers observed a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk early in the season, which is unusual compared to the more commonly seen light morph. Paul also reported two calling Willow Flycatchers.

The birds were in small groups and, if you were lucky enough to find them, you could see some good birds. That explains why one group of birders would report very little activity and another group would report more activity.

The weather, for the most part, was clear and probably allowed most of the migrants to fly past Saddle Creek.

The total number of warbler species was not much different from previous years, with a 2008 total of twenty-six species. We typically observe twenty-eight to thirty species of warblers. The peak of fall migration at Saddle Creek has changed in the past few years, from mid-September to mid to late October. The main difference this year was that the warblers that were present were observed by just a few people.

Attendance was also lower than in previous years. The total number of participants was 101. Most of the participants were local and regulars. We were joined by two birders from England and two from California during the fall.

My hope is that 2009 will be a migrant bonanza for Saddle Creek and Florida.

**Lake Region Audubon Bird Club
Ft. DeSoto, November 13, 2008**

Marvel Loftus

A beautiful day at Ft. DeSoto was enjoyed by the 25 people who made the journey to this wonderful county park in Pinellas County. The first stop for some was the South Rest Area on the Skyway Bridge. We were greeted by Stilt Sandpipers and one lonely American Oystercatcher

out on the mud flats. I thought, 'This will be a great day!' The North Rest Area where most of us met was also productive. The immature Black-crowned Night-Herons were there as usual so we weren't disappointed. Also on the corner of Pinellas Bayway and CR 679 our resident Roseate Spoonbill stood out with its pink feathers. What a beautiful sight! As we were driving towards Ft. DeSoto, I mentioned to watch for Black-hooded Parakeets. Low and behold, Nola Bowman spotted them flying at eye level with the car as we crossed one of the bridges. Tierra Verde Duck Ponds were great as usual. Along with the many coots, there were also Redheads and Ruddy Ducks. What surprised us the most was the pair of American Wigeon at one end of the pond. The East Beach turn around awarded us with Wilson's and Semipalmated Plover. The end of North Beach was a disappointment. Yes, we did get the Reddish Egret but there were too many people on the beach for any shorebirds. We ended the trip at the other end of the North Beach where all the shorebirds were sitting. Everyone was too tired to hike out to where we could get good looks at the thousands of birds plus the sun was against us even with our scopes. We had already seen all the common terns – Royal, Caspian, Forster's and Sandwich in different areas of the park The Black

Skimmers bounced up into the air so we did get to count them and there might have been Red Knots in the group but we will never know. Anyway, it was a wonderful day to be with all the bird club people again.

**Lake Region Audubon Bird Club
Lake Parker, December 04, 2008**

Marvel Loftus

We started the day by meeting Chuck Geanangel at the Tenoroc Gate on East Lake Parker Drive. After locking the gate, we went to our special project, the Sparrow Fields. He and Pete Timmer have been doing this on their own and it is a huge project. They are such dedicated workers and Lake Region Audubon is so fortunate to have them as members. This is one of the reasons we received the "Chapter of the Year" award. They applied and received a grant from the Audubon of Florida to start the project. They had the field plowed and planted with millet seeds. They also planted many other native plants to attract birds. The weather was not to helpful for them this year, no rain. These two men were watering these plants by hand trying to save them and I believe some did survive. They have received more grant money to continue their work and will replant again this year. The theory is, I guess, plant the right things and the sparrows will come. For us, it was too early in the year for sparrows but we did find a few Savannah Sparrows and some first of the season American Goldfinch.

Our next stop was East Lake Parker Park, a jetty that goes out into the lake. As we were walking out towards the lake someone spotted a bird sitting in the reeds. My first guess was that it is a juvenile Green Heron. The bird was very cooperative. He sat there for a very long time and I had the scope on him. We started to check all his markings and they did not match the Green Heron. Low and behold it was a Least Bittern! Every marking matched so there was no mistake. What a Least Bittern was doing at Lake Parker in the first part of December was anybody's guess but there it was. Several people took pictures. Also in this little park we got a glimpse of a male and female Common Yellowthroat.

Onto the next stop, Lake Parker Recreation Area on the west side of Lake Parker. We got out of our cars and there in a bare tree in front of the restroom were beautiful bright yellow Pine Warblers. What a sight. Little yellow birds all over the tree. Another beauty was Yellow-throated Warbler. We walked over to the boat landing and the Purple Gallinules greeted us as usual. Looking down the lake, a Roseate Spoonbill was sitting on top of a palm tree. In the next palm tree there was an immature Red-shouldered Hawk. We walked the park and found many warblers. We even found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. It was a wonderful day in the park. After lunch we drove to Lake Wire and found it full of Ring-necked Ducks. We tried to make the female Ring-necked Ducks into Ruddy Ducks but that didn't work. When we got to Lake Morton we found the Ruddy Ducks and just a few White Pelicans. Lake Hollingworth is not the lake for birds anymore. We did find a Limpkin sitting along side of the lake and some Laughing Gulls. All in all it was great day for birding. A total of 59 species. If you wish to join us on our trips just give me a call.

General Membership Meeting

The Meeting on March 11, 2009 will be a General Membership Meeting. There will be an election of officers.

**JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
Count for Fun, Count for the Future
February 13-16, 2009**

Bird Club Schedule

FEBRUARY 5, 2009— MOSAIC PHOSPHATE MINES

Meeting place will be announced. Paul Fellers will lead this trip. There is limitation of participation on this trip and reservations will be necessary.

*****SATURDAY*** FEBRUARY 14, 2009— STA-5, HENDRY COUNTY**

Meet at McDonalds, 339 US Hwy 27 in Avon Park at 8:00 AM or at the gate of STA-5 at 10:00 AM. Drive almost to Clewiston on Hwy 27, look for Evercane Road CR835 and the J&J Products sign, turn right/south onto CR 835. Drive 9 ½ miles to STA-5 turn off, a dirt road. Drive another 2 ½ miles on the dirt road to the gate of STA-5. This is along trip but great birding. Allow plenty of time to get to Avon Park on time. Waivers will have to be signed before entry. Hopefully we will be out of there by 3:00 PM and home shortly after 6:00.

Bring a lunch and there very little walking on this trip.

FEBRUARY 19, 2009 — HONEYMOON ISLAND—COURTNEY CAMPBELL CSWY

Meet at 8:00 AM at McDonalds on County Line Road and Hwy 4.or at McDonalds 9:15 AM at Curlew Road and Hwy Alt. 19, Bayshore Blvd in the Causeway Plaza Shopping Center. Bring a lunch. There will be only short walks on this trip. Please notify Marvel where you will meeting.

FEBRUARY 26, 2009—SHILOH MARSH ROAD, MERRITT ISLAND, FL.

Meet at 7:15 AM at Burger King on Hwy 27 just north of I-4.or at the McDonalds at the intersection I-95, Exit 223,and SR46 at 9:00 AM. Bring a lunch.

MARCH 5, 2009 – ST. JOHN RIVER CRUISE, BLUE SPRING STATE PARK

Meet at 7: 45 AM at Burger King on Hwy.27 just north of I-4 or in Blue Spring State Park (#45 in the East Birding Trail Book) by the Boat Dock at 9:15 AM. Please check in with me before walking the Board Walk. The Boat Trip will leave at 10:00 AM with pre boarding at 9:30 AM \$18.00 per person. Make reservations by mailing a check to Marvel Loftus, 9705 Lake Bess Road #473, Winter Haven, FL by Feb. 26th. There is also an entrance fee into the State Park. Bring a lunch to eat after the boat ride.

MARCH 19, 2009– HIGHLAND HAMMOCK STATE PARK, SEBRING, FL

Meet at McDonalds, 339 US Hwy 27 in Avon Park at 8:00 AM. Fee into the park. Short hikes, bring lunch

MARCH 26, 2009– WHALEY'S LANDING, JOE OVERSTREET & 3 LAKES WMA

Meet at 8:30 AM at the McDonalds in Haines City on Hwy 17/92, ½ mile east of Hwy 27. First stop will be on the west side of Lake Toho and then Brinson Park at the North end of Lake Toho at 9:15AM. This will be a long day if we stay to see the Red Cockaded Woodpeckers. Bring a lunch. Very little walking.

**Lake Region Audubon Society
Pizza and Film Schedule**

February 2, 2009 - "EDEN AT THE END OF THE WORLD"

A national Geographic Production about Patagonia

March 2, 2009 - "CRASH: A TALE OF TWO SPECIES"

Nature's Production of the shorebird, Red Knots

and the Horseshoe Crab

April 6, 2009 - "GALAPAGOS ISLANDS"

Beautiful documentary about these isolated islands

**Where: Street Audubon Nature Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884**

Time: 7:00 PM - First Monday of the Month

Donation: \$1.00 for One Slice of Pizza or a Serving of Salad. Includes chips, drink and dessert

LAKE REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY EVENING PROGRAMS

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

"Hawaii Islands, A Naturalists view Kauai and Maui"

Program given by: Paul Fellers

Where: Circle Bar B Reserve
 Work Shop Room
 4399 Winter Lake Road
 Lakeland, FL
 (Located on CR 540 between
 Highway 98 and the Landfill)

February 23, 2009

"Gopher Tortoise"

Program given by: Tabitha Biehl-Gabbard
 Polk County Natural Resource Division

Time: 7:00 PM

Refreshments will be served

March 23, 2009

"Peace River"

Program given by: Dr. Lisa B. Beever,
 Director, Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program

Come early and enjoy the beautiful Circle Bar B Reserve

Birding and Wildflower Walks with Paul Fellers

Apr 04, 2009, 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**

April 18, 2009, 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**

Jun 06, 2009, Sat, Avon Park Air Force Range. Meet at 8 AM at Street Audubon Center or 8:30 at McDonalds on US 27, Lake Wales 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**

County Commission Contact Information

Painted Bunting Observer Team

A group of citizen scientists in the Carolina's have been observing breeding Painted Bunting and they are now expanding into Florida to observe Painted Bunting in their winter grounds. Visit the web site at <http://www.paintedbuntings.org/> to discover more about Painted Buntings and how you may help.

To voice your opinion as to whether Duck Shooting is a suitable activity at Circle B Bar Reserve, you may contact the county commissioners at the following e-mail addresses:

District One, Bob English - bobenglish@polk-county.net
 District Two, Randy Wilkinson - randywilkinson@polk-county.net
 District Three, Ed Smith - Ed.Smith@polk-county.net
 District Four, Jean Reed - jeanreed@polk-county.net
 District Five, Sam Johnson - samjohnson@polk-county.net

Or telephone 863-534-6000

Why Support Efficiency and Renewable Energy Legislation in Florida?

Energy efficiency measures can go a long way toward reducing our dependence on polluting fossil fuels, such as oil and coal. Clean renewable energy can eventually take us the rest of the way to a clean and vibrant energy economy that creates jobs and stimulates technological innovation.

The transition as a state, nation and throughout the world is inevitable because fossil fuels are nonrenewable and because the impacts of climate change—such as sea level rise, more intense storms, storm surges and drought—pose serious threats to birds, wildlife, and our states natural treasures.

Florida is making progress in improving its energy efficiency measures and this was recognized in a report released in October by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The report provided a detailed comparison of states progress on a range of energy efficiency measures. Compared to the last report card in 2007, Florida was among the four most improved states, jumping ten points from 29th in the 2007 ACEEE report card to 19th in this years scorecard.

While progress is being made on energy efficiency, much remains to be accomplished to stimulate growth of renewable energy in the state. The legislature passed Energy Bill 7135 this year, which included direction to the Florida Public Service Commission to develop what is called a Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires electric utilities to provide a growing percentage of their electricity by using clean, renewable energy. Audubon is advocating for a standard that provides 20 percent of our electricity from clean sources, such as solar power, by 2020.

Robert Reedy, Director of UCF Florida Solar Energy Center, reports that solar generating potential from residential rooftops alone in Florida is 35 gigawatts (equal to 23 new 1500 megawatt power plants).

Strong renewable energy standards, coupled with a smart grid system to provide safe, reliable means for distributed power generation. With more progress toward creating robust renewable energy standards, Florida could easily move up even further in future ACEEE report cards and be an example for other states around the country.

How You Can Help

Audubon is working to tip the scales toward strong energy efficiency measures, solar and all other forms of clean, renewable energy as fast as we can because these policies will help solve climate change, provide relief from high oil prices, strengthen national security, and especially stimulate the economy and green job creation.

Please contact the Florida Public Services Commission and let them know you support a 20% or greater Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2020, as recommended by Governor Charlie Crist in Executive Order 07-127.

You can also participate by joining the Audubon Climate Action Network, which entitles you to become a member of the Alliance For Climate Protections We Can Solve the Climate Crisis Campaign. Sign up today by visiting www.audubonofflorida.org.

Contributed by Chuck Geanangel



Red-tailed Hawk by Norm Brewer from his condo on Lake Howard in Winter Haven

**LAKE REGION AUDUBON
NEEDS YOUR HELP!!**

**WE ARE HAVING A FUND RAISER!!
A SILENT AUCTION
FOR THE NATURE CENTER &
ALL OUR PROGRAMS
IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009**

**WE NEED DONATIONS FROM OUR LOCAL
MERCHANTS or ANY SPECIAL ITEM
YOU PERSONALLY WISH TO DONATE**

Donations will be accepted until, Feb 20, 2009, 10:00 AM, at the Nature Center at our last "Open House/Silent Auction" meeting. We need volunteers to help us clean and setup for the dinner and auction. Just come and help. We have many fabulous bargains open for bids. Many beautiful paintings, pictures, dinner tickets, golf course gift certificates, great books, jewelry, wine, beautiful bird bath, camera lenses and many more items. A complete list is on our Website www.lakeregion.net.

Items are now on display in the viewing porch of the Nature Center and are open for bids. If you go to the Nature Center before Feb. 22nd, you may place your bid but they must be paid at the end of the Open House. So bring your checkbook to the Open House and snap up some of these bargains.

If you have any question just contact me. If you believe in the Audubon and Lake Region Society, please, we need a lot of items for the Silent Auction. This is one of our main Fund Raisers for the year. With these donations and with your help, we will be able to perform our programs and keep up the constant repairs of our beautiful Nature Center.

Thank you,

Marvel Loftus, Program Chairman

Phone: 863 324 9657, Cell: 863 289 8188, E-mail: marvel.loftus@gmail.com

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.

OPEN HOUSE

STREET AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Sunday, February 22, 2009, at 2:00 PM

At the Open House a delicious dinner will be served. It will be BBQ Pulled Pork & Chicken Leg Dinner plus dessert at a cost of \$12.00 per person. To make reservations for the dinner, just mail us your check in the amount of people attending, \$12.00 per person, to Bill Karnofsky, Treasurer, 1439 Grand Cayman Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33884.

Clayton and Marti Seawright will entertain us after dinner with their beautiful music. They were so delightful last year; we asked them to return this year.

Along with the dinner we are having a "Silent Auction". For more information, look for the Silent Auction notice in this newsletter.

These funds that are raised will go for the everlasting maintenance of the Nature Center plus they will enable us to continue all our programs dedicated to youth education and conservation. Also an informational folder will be passed out regarding these programs. Come early, walk the grounds, see for yourself our beautiful Nature Center and all the wonderful items in the Silent Auction.

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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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.

2008 - 2009 OFFICERS

Steering Committee:

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Street Audubon Center Advisory Committee:

Chuck Geanangel, Bill Karnofsky and Paul Anderson

Board Members: Charles Geanangel, Mae Hartsaw, William Karnofsky, Carrie Plaire, Paul Anderson, Paul Fellers, Janet Anderson, Marvel Loftus, Lee Shoe, Herman Moulden, Mali Rafats.

VP/Programs: Marvel Loftus
 VP/Conservation: Chuck Geanangel 863-326-5748
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 VP Newsletter: Herman Moulden editor@lakeregion.net
 Treasurer: Bill Karnofsky 863-324-5282
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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

Chapter E 25
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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*.

MBR NAME: _____

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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
 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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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

Herman got this photo of a pair of Hooded Mergansers at Merritt Island during the Bird Club trip on January 15th.

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

www.lakeregion.net