



Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD IN LAKELAND

Linda F. Cooper

I opened the e-mail that Saturday morning, January 24, and looked at the photos sent to us by Joe Misiaszek of Lakeland, 'the hummingbird guy'. He has been enticing hummingbirds to his yard for many years. A spring storm in 1996 blew in a gorgeous male Calliope Hummingbird to his feeders and we have been in touch since then. "Hmmm, it looks like a Rufous except for all that green on the back...wonder if it could be an Allen's?" was the thought that went quickly through my head.

Not very likely since Allen's breeds only along the California coast while the widespread Rufous breeds from Alaska, western Canada down into Washington, Oregon, California and into Idaho and Montana. Both usually winter in northwest Mexico. Rufous also winters widely in the east/southeast while Allen's is rare in the east/southeast with no records south of Tallahassee. Knowing that Rufous had visited his yard in Lakeland in previous years as well as Black-chinned and the Calliope along with a winter influx of Ruby-throated Hummers, more than likely it was one of the Rufous that sometimes has a green back. I emailed Joe right back and said "We can't get over there until Sunday." I then emailed the photos to someone local more knowledgeable than we are. Their response was a 'possible Allen's' but a definitive photo of spread tail feathers was needed to confirm the identification. A quick phone call to Joe Sunday morning to see if the bird was still there added another piece to this puzzle. "The behavior is very different from any Rufous I have ever had," reported Joe. "This bird is very timid." Rufous Hummingbirds don't get the nickname 'Ruferocious' for no

reason. Ask anyone who has spent time around them! Why would this male be different? Meanwhile, Joe had emailed photos to hummingbird expert and bander, Fred Bassett of Montgomery, Alabama. Fred makes winter visits all over the south to band visiting hummingbirds and had already been to Joe's house once this winter. His answer was that definitive photos were needed of the spread tail feathers showing narrow pinlike outer tail

feathers and one other tail feather that is either notched in Rufous or unnotched in Allen's.

Paul Fellers, Buck and I arrived at Joe's hummingbird-friendly yard Sunday morning. Sure enough the puzzling hummingbird was actively feeding or perching in the sun trying to stay away from the aggressive Ruby-throateds that dive-bombed the shy guy. I took lots of photos but none of mine showed what was needed. Soon, Pierre DuCharme of *The Ledger* arrived with his big digital camera and lens. Within

minutes he captured the definitive photo

of the spread tail feathers that showed the shy guy was indeed an Allen's Hummingbird – a new record for Polk County! Photos went immediately to Fred Bassett who confirmed the identity. One of his banders would be down the following weekend if the bird stayed that long. The bird not only stayed that long but, as of this writing in late February, is still delighting visitors. Thanks to Joe and Nancy Misiaszek for opening their yard not only to visiting hummingbirds but to approximately 180 visiting birders. Can't wait to see what shows up in Joe's yard next year.



Showing Leg Band
by Joe Misiaszek

For more info <http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org/>

Some Allen's Photos



Feeding (by Linda Cooper)



Hovering (by Herman)



Resting (by Linda Cooper)



Banding (by Bob Snow)



Banding (by Bob Snow)

LRAS' Lakeland/Winter Haven Area Christmas Bird Count

By Paul Fellers

On December 20, out and about in a 15-mile diameter circle covering most of Lakeland, edge of Bartow, western Winter Haven, Auburndale and north about to I-4, 43 observers counted 133 species and 70,958 individuals. Some observers were out from before dawn to dusk.

Rare and unusual species included: 13 Wild Turkeys (by 3 teams; only the 2nd time recorded for the count), 36 Brown Pelicans (5 teams but most from the Lake John area), 21 Roseate Spoonbills (3 teams; most from Circle B Bar Reserve), 18 Gadwall, 4 Royal Terns, Chuck-wills-widow (behind the cemetery on the east side of Rte. 98; only the 3rd winter record for this species; responded to Barred Owl call by the Writer), 25 House Finches (3 parties), 3 Painted Buntings (2 parties), 6 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (3 parties; 4 at a Lakeland feeder), Peregrine Falcon (Circle B Bar), Western Kingbird (N. of Teneroc), and Carolina Chickadee (Lakeland feeder).

Some other records of note were 3 Common Loons (Lake Arietta), 2 Horned Grebes (L. Arietta), 259 Anhingas (perhaps enough to be top count for all CBCs), 615 Wood Storks (excellent number for this threatened species), 4 Canvasbacks (Lakeland lake), 5,206 Ring-necked Ducks (most on L. Juliana), 5,029 Lesser Scaup (most on L. Arietta), 3,280 Ruddy Ducks (most on L. Ariana), 61 Bald Eagles (20 immature; 11 of the 15 teams), 5 each Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, not a single N. Bobwhite, 116 Purple Gallinules (probably enough for highest of all CBC's), 68 Limpkins (10 teams; our best effort ever), a remarkable 345 Sandhill Cranes (30-40 years ago we were happy with a couple or so), a whopping 17,556 Ring-billed Gulls (most at the landfill), 47 Caspian Terns (8 teams), 24 Eurasian Collared Doves (down from over a 1,000 a few years ago), 30 Monk Parakeets, no Red-headed Woodpeckers, 2 Eastern Bluebirds (recorded on only 11 of our counts), 2 Hermit Thrushes (2 teams), 18 Blue-headed Vireos (2 times that of White-eyed Vireos), 2 Orange-crowned Warblers (2 teams), 4 N. Parulas (2 teams), 875 Palm Warblers (perhaps enough for top number for all CBCs), no Ovenbird, 21 Vesper Sparrows (3 teams), and 10 Grasshopper Sparrows (3 teams).

This was a great effort by many talented and dedicated birders. As compiler of this count for the past 34 years, I wish to thank everyone for making this undertaking yet another important contribution to science that will contribute to the understanding and perhaps the perpetuation of all bird species.

Thanks are given to Alice Hallinan, Eva Sampson, and Martha Sue Brantley for having a delicious supper featuring lasagna awaiting us at the end of the day. And I thank Linda Cooper for the task at the roundup of recording each and every birding tick by each bird team representative. Finally, I wish to thank Chuck Geanangel for entering the count data on the internet report to National Audubon. Happy Birding!

Mosaic Phosphate Mines Field Trip

By Paul Fellers

January 10th, 2009 was a very good day for the 24 birders at the mines logging 83 species including some good ones. Of note were 750 Am. White Pelicans, 3 Black-crowned Night Herons, 1,000 Green-winged Teal, 6 Gadwall, 30 Am. Wigeon, 3 Female Buffleheads (rare inland), 150 Hooded Mergansers, 3,000 Ruddy Ducks (11 duck species in all), 4 Bald Eagles (1 at each of 2 nests), 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 12 Back-necked Stilts (supposed to be in Central or South America now), 30 Am. Avocets, 1,000 Least Sandpipers, 150 Stilt Sandpipers, 175 Long-billed Dowitchers, Royal Tern (normally a coastal bird), 200 Black Skimmers, Barred Owl (responded to owl call by the writer at IMC/Agrico Peace River Park), 3 Pileated Woodpeckers (at the Park), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Park), Am. Pipit, and Swamp Sparrow.

The group wishes to thank Diana Youmans and the Mosaic Company for providing a great lunch at the Fort Green Mine Visitors Center and allowing the field trip on the property.

Birding 101: Class of '09

By Paul Fellers

The class of '09 is history. The 11 attendees were able to see no fewer than 280 slides of birds or bird-related material with commentary on each slide over a period of four, 2 ½ hour sessions. In addition to bird identification slides, such subjects as bird migration, longevity, habitat, history, rarity, flight pattern, listing, etc. were discussed. Many questions were answered. A great many handouts were given out at each class also covering a multitude of bird-related subjects. The fifth and final class was pot-luck night with a fun 40-question final exam, which included many "gift" answers, and which employed birds to identify from figurines, plates, a tape recording, bird T-shirt, bird silhouette pages, and illustrations from calendars, books, magazines, etc.

Three field trips included a visit by 8 class members to Lakeland's Lake Parker Park on Jan. 18th at which we logged an amazing 52 species including a Roseate Spoonbill, 2 Mottled Ducks, adult Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, 15 Purple Gallinules, 2 Limpkins, 2 Sandhill Cranes (at 20'), 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 4 Blue-headed Vireos, and male Black-and-white Warbler. The hike was followed by lunch at Steak and Shake.

The 2nd trip was over to Merritt Island NWR with Pumphouse Rd. and Black Point Drive, then on to Bio-Lab Rd. and out to Playalinda Beach. We had a great day with 93 species including 3 Common Loons, Horned Grebe, 10 N. Gannets, 2 Snow Geese, Ross' Goose (lifer for all but the writer), 1,000 N. Pintails, 30,000 Lesser Scaup, Peregrine Falcon, 20 Wild Turkeys (on the drive there), 500 Dunlin, 3 Marbled Godwits, 200 American Avocets, 200 Black Skimmers, 2 Scrub Jays, and 30 Cedar Waxwings (a rarity this winter).

Our final trip with 8 in attendance was at Circle B Bar Reserve with a very good 61 species noted including 1,500 Am. White Pelicans, 25 Roseate Spoonbills, gorgeous male green-headed Mallard, 6 Bald Eagles (2 on nests), Solitary Sandpiper, 6 Long-billed Dowitchers, 40 Caspian Terns, N. Flicker, Sedge and Marsh Wrens, N. Parula (everyone saw), and 2 Swamp Sparrows. Perhaps I'll see you on the trail enjoying our winged beauties flying free.

**Bird Club Trip
Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, Jan. 15 2009**

It was a wonderful trip. Ten carloads of birders made the trip with me on this cloudy, windy day. The wind was blowing very hard when we were at the boat landing, thus we didn't stay very long. There weren't any birds on the North side of the causeway except three freezing **Willetts**. On the south side, we were lucky to have a brief look at a **Horned Grebe** and a very friendly **Common Loon** that was close to shore. Everyone had a good look at this northern visitor. There were a few **Least Sandpipers** and this turned out to be where all the **Ruddy Turnstones** were hanging out so as to be protected from the wind.

A **Dickcissel** had been reported to be at the Bio-Lab the day before, so instead of going directly to Pump House Road and Black Point Wildlife Drive we opted to go there first. When we came to the intersection of CR406 and CR3 we spotted a couple of Scrub Jays. They gave us a wonderful view. Larry Lane did all he could to get them to eat from his hand. He almost succeeded. At the Bio-Lab we tried as hard as we could to make one of the many sparrows into a Dickcissel. Finally, we decided that they were all Savannah Sparrows. It was a fun and educational experience. We learned which sparrows are NOT Dickcissels no matter how hard we try to turn them into one.

The clock was ticking so it was time to do Black Point Wildlife Drive. This was not a disappointment. The beautiful **Northern Pintails**, **American Wigeons**, **Blue-winged Teals** and **Hooded Mergansers** were there. There were not as many as there have been in years past, but still we received wonderful looks at these gorgeous ducks. The **Roseate Spoonbills** were across the pond. What surprised us the most when we put our scopes on these birds was a huge, and I do mean huge, wild black pig. It was standing in the water right in the middle of all the Spoonbills. This pig must have weighed at least 500 lbs. Further down the drive, we found 3 **Snow Geese** and standing right with them was a **Ross's Goose**. Any doubt was quickly eliminated when we had both a Snow Goose and the Ross's Goose in the scope at the same time which made the comparison between their bills a certainty. It was a text book comparison, just like the picture in the field guide. This was a life bird for many. Before we got to the ducks, we looked at a pond that was filled with **Greater** and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. None of us have never seen so many yellowlegs in one place as we did that day.

We ate our lunch, or should I say snacks, at the Cruickshank Trailhead which conveniently also provided facilities for a restroom stop. Our next stop was Pump House Road. When we first arrived, all the birds were across the water. I walked quite a way down

the dike and set up my scope. The birds were still too far away. I was saying to myself well this was a worthless stop when Pat Weidenman came up to me and said, "Guess what we just saw?" Those who hadn't ventured down the dike with me got a look at a **Sora Rail**. So for some the stop was well worth it.

The last stop was East Gator Creek Road. We probably should have done this road first. The birds located here were out of the wind. We had to hurry it along because it was approaching 3:00 PM. Time certainly flies when you are having fun and our reservations at Dixie Crossroads were for 3:30 PM. Twenty one of us enjoyed our meal and were very thankful again that we had such a wonderful day. The total number of species for this trip was 73.

If you wish to join us on any of our Bird Club trips, just contact me. The whole schedule is on our website.

Marvel Loftus, 863 324 9657

Bird Club Trip Jan. 30, 2009 Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area

The day started out very wet but 15 of us listened to the weatherman who said it would stop raining by mid morning and clear by noon. That is exactly what happened. Those who didn't come missed a wonderful day of birding in an area with limited access. To get into the area you have to be escorted by a St. Johns River Water Management employee. We had a wonderful host named Don. We were there from about 8:30 in the morning until after 4:00 pm. In the middle of the day, we were able to go back to station office to have lunch in a nice warm office. Don gave us a short talk about the restoration area. The restoration is a work in progress. They have acquired all the land they need to finish the job of cleaning the soil of the deadly fertilizers and pesticides that were used for decades by the former owners. The purpose was and still is to clean Lake Apopka. The lake is now 40% cleaner but much more work has to be done. Two areas are now open daily for public use: Clay Island off of Carolyn Road and North Shore off of CC448A. Trails are for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding unless otherwise noted. You can obtain more information about these two places at the website, www.sjwmd.com/. When driving the roads use caution because they can be, and in fact were, very muddy. There was only one spot that was very bad. Only one car had difficulty making up a small incline but the rest of us slipped and slid our way up to firmer land. We all gave a sigh of relief. From then on we had no trouble but our cars were caked with white clay mud. It reminded me of our mine trips.

There are two flooded areas now in the limited access restoration area. They both held many **egrets, herons and ibis**. **American Bitterns** were very plentiful. The first one we saw flew away and hid quite well in the reeds. Just a few got to see it. But after that, I believe there were 3 right along side of the road and everyone had good looks. Naturally there were a lot of **Coots** and **Moorhens** in the ponds along with a lot of ducks. The first ducks we saw were probably the **Blue-winged Teal**. That is the most common duck in Florida and is seen on most of our trips. There were many **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** hiding in the brush along with a large group of **Green-winged Teals**. These were hard to see but were countable. We had better views of the **Gadwalls, Mottled Ducks, Northern Pintails, Hooded Mergansers** and one **Northern Shoveler**. **Wood Ducks** made a flyover.

Palm Warblers were all over the place as usual. When I saw one in the brush, I hoped it would be a sparrow. Most of the time it turned out to be a Palm Warbler. It is always fun to hope. There were many **Savannah Sparrows** and we did have a few **Swamp Sparrows** and **Chipping Sparrows**. Paul Fellers found one **Field Sparrow**. We did find a **White-crowned Sparrow** in the restoration area but we found a lot more at the end of Lust Road outside the fence. Besides Palm Warblers, we had **Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Warblers, Prairie Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroats**. But the best bird of the day was the **Orange-crowned Warbler** that stuck around so everyone got to see it.

The birding day ended at sunset. We parked our cars across the street from Hooper Farms. There were hundreds and hundreds of **Robins** roosting in the small trees and on wires. After scanning the area with our scopes, we found the **Western Kingbirds**. What a wonderful sight with the glow of the sun shining on their bright yellow flanks and belly. Byron Bratlie stated that all we needed would be a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**. We turned around and there one was sitting on a wire behind us. He flew from the wire with its beautiful long scissor tail spread out so there was no doubt in our minds it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The sun sank below the horizon and that ended a wonderful day of birding with a total of 77 species.

Marvel Loftus, 863 324 9657

Bird Club Trip - STA5, Clewiston, FL, Feb. 14, 2005

Saturday, Feb. 14 2009, we completed another great trip for the Bird Club. Thanks to Margaret England and the Back Yard Bird Count Program, we could leave later in the day and stay later. Normally, STA 5 (Stormwater Treatment Area 5) is open only on certain Saturdays during the year. You have to be there at 8:00 and leave by Noon. Because the Back Yard Bird Count Program taking place there, they allowed more time for the visit.

We arrived, all nine car loads, at the gate at 10:00 and were greeted by Margaret England, turned in our waivers, and started the trip around the water retention cells. By coming in later, we missed the crowd. Margaret stated that there were 100 cars already out on the dikes. Fortunately, for us we missed all of them. The first cell held many coots but among them was the **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**. How wonderful! Old eagle eye, Buck Cooper, spotted a **Eurasian Wigeon**. This was a life bird for many. We had beautiful scope views of this duck and it cooperated so everyone had a good look. Also in the pond were Blue Wing Teals, Northern Shovelers, Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Ring-neck Ducks and an **American Wigeon**. Sitting on the wires were **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**; also a life bird for many.

We ate our lunch at the overlook. As usual, the boardwalk didn't have many birds other than a few coots and one Green Heron. It is a nice boardwalk. Had a place to sit but most of the group decided to just eat in their cars. We kept seeing **Purple Gallinules** but we were really trying to find a **Purple Swamp Hen**. Finally, towards the end of the trip we saw one right out in the open. They look like a Purple Gallinule but are bigger and their face cap is all red, not blue. I was relieved that we really saw this one because I knew several people came just to find this bird.

It is hard to explain STA5. We saw thousands of birds. I do not know how many **Long-billed Dowitchers** and **Stilt Sandpipers** there were but it was over a hundred. Over a hundred **Black-neck Stilts**. Over a hundred **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**. It was difficult to find a few **Mottled Ducks** amongst the **whistling ducks**. We did find a few **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** and one **Northern Pintail**. We did have a major discussion on whether an immature night heron was a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** or a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** eating a fish. It was finally decided it was a **Black-crowned**. These are the things that makes the bird club so much fun and very educational.

On the back side of the last cell, Linda Cooper yelled over the walkie-talkie, "**Short Tail Hawk**." We all jumped out of the cars and some of us did really get a good look. Linda Cooper took a picture of the Short-tailed Hawk. All of a sudden it was 2:30 and I got a call from Margaret that they were wishing to close. Everyone else had gone so I promised her our group would be at the gate at 3:00. I believe our group would have liked to stay longer because of the wonderful time we were all having. We were inside the gate for 5 1/2 hours.

We saw thousands and thousands of birds but only 65 species. I have no idea how they counted all those birds for the Back Yard Bird Count. Vince Lucas guided us to Immokalee and 4 cars decided to follow us. Those that went earlier missed some very good birds. On

Blumberg Road, a beautiful **Peregrine Falcon** was sitting on a wire. The Falcon stayed around for a good look before he flew away. When he did fly, it gave us a great view of his shape and his very pointed wings. A **Crested Caracara** flew to the abandoned radio tower. They just might nest there again. On CR846 on our way to Immokalee we saw a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher & Western Kingbirds** on the wires and **Snail Kites** flying by our cars at eye level. What a wonderful sight. We ended our trip in the backyard of Vince Lucas's friend watching **Indigo Buntings** and **Painted Buntings** at the feeders. She attracts these buntings with white millet. Before we knew it, it was 5:30pm. We decided to eat dinner at a restaurant in LaBelle. Considering we were late in leaving, took a wrong turn then received some wrong directions, when we finally did find the place, it was closed. They had a special function for Valentines Day. My group ate at Wendy's and the others must have found other places.

We ended up with 91 species for the day. It was such a wonderful day it certainly was worth the 330 miles round trip we had to drive. (Less than one tank of gas for my Jeep.) This was one of the longest trips the Bird Club has made and was well worth it. If you wish to join the bird club to see great birds and to enjoy the company of some really terrific folks, just give me a call.

Marvel Loftus, Phone 863 324 9657



Short-tailed Hawk
by Linda Cooper

Lake Kissimmee State Park Bird Count, 2008

The Lake Kissimmee State Park was divided up into five equal areas and teams of birders from the Lake Region Audubon Society went out each month and tallied all the birds they saw or heard. I have compared this year's results with a similar count done in 1979. With the exception of a few hundred acres of mostly pasture near the entrance, LKSP acreage is essentially the same as it was 29 years ago. Our goal was to see what avian changes took place in the intervening years.

In 1979 we reported 163 species with 30,589 individuals while in 2008 we found 150 species with 27,584 individuals. The species recorded in 1979 but not in 2008 are as follows:

Muscovy Duck, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Least Bittern, Sora Rail, Black-necked Stilt, Laughing Gull, Black Tern, Barn Owl, Veery, Wood Thrush, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Bobolink, (28 species)

Species found in 2008 but not in 1979:

Gadwall, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Snail Kite, King Rail, Caspian Tern, Eurasian Collared Dove, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bank Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Cape May Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird (15 species)

Many of these differences are one time wonders and need not concern us but others are more troubling. At least a dozen unreported species in the 2008 count are from the period of the fall migration. While permanent resident populations have held up well, during the past few years the local fall migration has been weak. Just how weak it was is demonstrated by the lack of migratory birds on this count. On the brighter side both chickadees and Snail Kites have moved into the park and are breeding. There is little the park management can do about the migration patterns but they can have a good deal of influence on habitat protection of the permanent residents. With that in mind I want to focus on several species that live in the park full time.



Bachman's Sparrow
by Herman

Wild Turkeys are common today, even abundant with an average of over 50 sightings per month. Thirty years ago they were scarce, averaging less than one per month and absent for 5 months. Bobwhite numbers are down but the populations are still generally healthy. Countywide, the situation is grim with quail absent from large areas of Polk County. Numbers of birds of the wetlands are about the same as well as raptors. However, Bald Eagle numbers have gone up nicely from 12 per month to 20 per month and that is a good sign. Red-tailed Hawk numbers have decreased some while Red-shouldered Hawks have increased a bit. Of course, we are now seeing the rare Snail Kite regularly. Limpkins are less common today while Sandhill Cranes are more abundant. Shorebird numbers are about the same except for the Common Snipe which is down dramatically. Ground Doves are more common today which is not what I expected. Twenty per month were reported this year versus only 7 per month 29 years ago. Barred Owls are much more common today and it is by far the most common owl in the park. Looking at woodpeckers, Red-headed and Northern Flicker numbers are down while Hairy and Downy numbers are up. LKSP remains the best spot in Polk County to see Hairy Woodpeckers by far. Among the flycatchers the Eastern Kingbird was a fairly common nesting species 29 years ago but today it is almost gone. It's a species that will require some study to see what has happened. Loggerhead Shrike is another common breeding bird whose numbers have fallen off sharply. Scrub-Jay numbers are down about 25% from 29 years ago. Tufted Titmouse numbers are climbing and Brown-headed Nuthatch numbers are much improved from the single bird we found in 1979. Eastern Bluebirds are a real success story increasing from 17 sightings per year to 361 in 2008. Brown Thrashers numbers have taken a real dive for some reason. Warblers were a disaster. For example, Yellow-rumped Warblers in January went from 1,313 in 1979 to only 36 in 2008. The other warblers experienced a sharp fall off in numbers too. The lone exception was Pine Warblers which sharply increased in numbers. January 2008 tallied 559 compared to only 74 in 1979.

All in all it's a real mixed bag. Because the two counts are separated by almost 30 years, we have a unique opportunity to examine the management plan of the park and look at the positive and negative outcomes. Birds of the pinewoods seem to be thriving; Scrub Jays are holding their own but snipe and kingbirds are losing ground. Perhaps the drought and the Lake Rosalie floodplain being impassible much of the fall made a difference. The purpose of this study is to give park managers a tool to examine long term changes in their park. I hope that they will take a hard look at our data.

I would like to thank the following people for their hard work and birding expertise: Team leaders, Buck and Linda Cooper, Pete Timmer, Paul Fellers, Gil and Gina Lucas, Roy Morris, and Marvel Loftus, Park Manager Andy Noland, and Park Biologist Erik Egensteiner.

Charles Geanangel, Project Manager

**Bird Club trip to Honeymoon Island, Chestnut Park,
And Courtney Campbell Causeway, Feb. 19, 2009**

This was the most mixed up trip for me in over eight years. You should all fire me as your leader. Weekly, I type up the driving instructions for everyone and this week didn't even follow them myself. I was the last one to arrive at our meeting place and the one who got lost.

The weather was not on our side, either. It was very cloudy and windy. Not very good weather to find the Le Conte's Sparrow. We tried but failed. Most of us went right to the beach to find the Snowy Plover. At that we were successful!!! The Wilson Plover was there when I first found the Snowy but I don't think anyone else had a chance to see it. At first, not too many people were convinced we would find the Snowy and were reluctant to walk up the beach a block or two because of the weather. But there they were. **Randy Denhem** took their pictures. Also on the beach were a Piping Plover and Semipalmated Plovers. What luck! The terns were also huddled together and **Ron Plumber** discovered one had a yellow-tipped bill, a Sandwich Tern. In the group were Royal and Forster's Terns. We all stood there in the wind for at least 45 minutes, making certain everyone got a good look at the plovers, Then someone walked through the birds and farther up the beach they flew. We decided it was time to head for the Nature Center.

Honeymoon Island State Park has a great Nature Center. We headed to the deck that surrounds the Nature Center. Having left my scope in the car, I made a quick exit to get it. We found a little female Bufflehead Duck. They are always a nice find. On a very small island stood one lone Black-bellied Plover, our 5th plover species for the day. We left the State Park and drove to the Honeymoon Island Causeway where we found Willets and Black Skimmers.

On our way to Chestnut Park, it started to rain. Some ate lunch in their cars and some went to a pavilion near Tarpon Lake to eat lunch. Unfortunately, we did not stay too dry. Soon, however, the rain stopped and the sun came out as did the warblers and woodpeckers. We were all very grateful that we stayed. The time was creeping towards 3:00 p.m. and we still had to do the Courtney Campbell Causeway on Hwy. 60. The Horned Grebes were there. Another Hurrah! Randy also got some good pictures of them. The only duck was Lesser Scaup. There was a Double Crested Cormorant which I tried my hardest to make into a Common Loon. When we made the loop, under the Hwy. 60 bridge to the other side, there sat on the road were 21 American Oystercatchers and a Common Loon at the water's edge. What a wonderful way to end a trip. Despite the weather, we had a great birding day ending up with 61 species.

If anyone wishes to join us we still have 2 trips left in April, Mead Garden, Orlando, FL on April 2, 2009 and Ft. DeSoto, St. Petersburg, FL on April 9, 2009. Just give me call at 863-324-9657. Marvel Loftus

Herbalism I

Step into the world of the Herbalist and learn the Art of the Apothecary. Herbalism I is a multi-faceted, interactive, hands-on course that will teach you basic and intermediate skills in order that you may go forward using what you have learned to help yourself and your family. High quality herbs and supplies to take home will be available for purchase from the Indigo Crescent Herb Company. **With Instructor Allison Wright, Master Herbalist, in partnership with Lake Region Audubon Society and Indigo Crescent Herb Co.**

Classes will be held at: Street Audubon Center 115 Lameraux Road Winter Haven 33884, www.lakeregion.net
Saturday, 4 April 12:30pm – 3:30pm, 11 April 12:30pm – 3:30pm, 18 April 12:30pm – 3:30pm
The cost per class is \$25 and includes all handouts and lab materials. Bring a pen.

Call to reserve your spot - Allison Wright – herbalism1@yahoo.com, Cell – 863-521-4939

Photography Class for Adults

At Street Audubon Center, 115 Lameraux Rd, Winter Haven, on Saturday, April 4, 11, 18, 25 9am to noon

Cost: \$50 for 4 classes — \$25 deposit due at registration

Tony Catalano, a professional photographer, will present a series of classes for adults to learn the secrets of taking high quality pictures. There will be a minimum of 5 people and maximum of 10 people so register early. Contact: Tony Catalano at 863-294-3556 or e-mail pegtony515@msn.com to register or for more details.

Sponsored by Lake Region Audubon Society

BOOK REVIEWER'S CORNER

Book: **Texas Wildlife Portraits**; Author: **Greg Lasley**

Reviewer: Bill Karnofsky

To start at the end; it is an absolutely marvelous book!

Mr. Lasley's three concurrent themes; his narrative, his photographs and his captions are seamlessly interconnected. They are captivating as well as educational. When added to his invitation to the reader to visit Texas it simply makes one want to pack a bag and call the airline for tickets.

His writing is as good as his photography. It clearly displays his knowledge of each of his subjects and presents the information in a most enjoyable way. His photographic composition is outstanding.

In reading the book, I realized it is a "must" for anyone considering wildlife photography as a hobby whether or not they are from Texas. It also is a "must" for the many individuals who already are avid wildlife photographers for their own pleasure. Mr. Lasley teaches the reader that having a beautiful picture is only half the enjoyment. The other half is to research and learn about the subject. Knowing about the subject adds so much more value to just a beautiful picture.

After reading this book, the casual picture-taker of wildlife will never again take photos in a casual way. The reader will be motivated to learn more about the subject of each picture taken. Mr. Lasley's pictures demonstrate how just an ordinary picture can be infinitely improved by taking time to view the surrounding area of the subject and incorporating it in an innovative and artistic way; or to look at the subject with a creative eye for a shot that will produce that one very special picture that will give a special sense of accomplishment you might never have had before.

In summary, if you enjoy taking pictures when out in the field, or just enjoy sitting home and viewing some spectacular pictures, this book is a must for you.

Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9 AM - 2 PM

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

Free workshop by Anne Yasalonis, Polk County Extension Services to include:

Making Rain Barrels at 9:30 am

To reserve a rain barrel (\$25), call Ann Yasalonis at 863-683-8094, ext 121.

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

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

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

Great Deal!!

Have we got a deal for You!! A new membership with Lake Region, Florida Audubon 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 Audubon magazine 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.

**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.

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.

RONNIE'S CARPETS, INC.

LAKELAND, FL

FREE ESTIMATES - RESIDENTIAL, BUILDER
AND COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS

863-859-1441

800-541-4762

WWW.RONNIESCARPETS.COM

Estate Antique  Custom Design
Diamonds Gold Colored Gems
Tahitian, Akoya, and South Sea Pearls
Classic & Vintage Rolex Timepieces

ANDY THORNAL COMPANY

Winter Haven - Down Town Under the Water Tower
US HWY 17 863.299.9999 www.andythornal.com

**75th Anniversary
Florida Costal Islands Sanctuaries**

Audubon of Florida cordially invites you to join us for a Cocktail Party and Art Exhibit featuring 19th century engravings of John James Audubon and original hand-colored etchings of John Costin in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Florida Costal Islands Sanctuaries. Friday, April 3, 2009 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Check our website www.lakeregion.com for more info.



Eagles on the nest at Lake Howard Park, Winter Haven by Norm Brewer

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.

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**

2008 - 2009 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: Charles Geanangel, Mae Hartsaw, William Karnofsky, Carrie Plaire, Paul Anderson, Paul Fellers, Janet Anderson, Marvel Loftus, Lee Shoe, Herman Moulden, Mali Rafats, Martha Sue Brantley

County Commission Contact Information

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

- 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 editor@lakeregion.net
- Treasurer: Bill Karnofsky 863-324-5282
- Recording Sec: Mali Rafats 863-207-2104,
malirafats@hotmail.com
- Corresponding Sec: Liz Purnell 863-324-3181

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
1439 Grand Cayman Cir
Winter Haven, FL 33884.

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

Lake Region Audubon Society
Street Audubon Center
115 Lameraux Road
Winter Haven, FL 33884
863.324.7304
www.lakeregion.net

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lakeland, FL
Permit No. 119

Street Audubon Center
Is Staffed By Volunteers
Monday - Saturday, 9 - 3:00.

“Eagle’s View” Newsletter,
Volume 19, Issue 4
Match/April 2009
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.

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

Red-shouldered Hawks on the nest at Circle B Bar Reserve
By Ron Butts



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.