



# EAGLE'S VIEW



Lake Region Audubon  
January 2010  
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Street Audubon Center  
115 Lameraux Road  
Winter Haven, FL 33884



Howe House

## Birding and Nature Articles by Paul Fellers

### Record Numbers Recorded for Several Bird Species in the 2008-2009 Christmas Bird Count

This was my 34<sup>th</sup> year as compiler for the Lakeland-Winter Haven area Christmas Bird Count. The area covers a 15-mile-diameter circle with the center being a couple miles or so south of Saddle Creek Park. With the help of about 40 top-notch birders, we observed 133 species and 70,958 individuals last year. But according to overall tallies by National Audubon for the 1,673 counts in the U.S., we observed the most individuals for an amazing five species: 4,350 Cattle Egrets, 615 Wood Storks, 3,445 Turkey Vultures, 116 Purple Gallinules, and 7,800 Fish Crows. Good for us! Thanks for the effort gang! The Avon Park Air Force Range which has part of its count circle in Polk County also did well matching our 5 record-number species: 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 47 Barred Owls, 58 Florida Scrub Jays, 780 Pine Warblers, and 177 Eastern Towhees.

### Compendium of Fall 2009 Field Trips

On October 17<sup>th</sup> for our annual field trip to **Turkey Creek Sanctuary and Merritt Island NWR** we logged 86 species of birds, including some real good ones. At Turkey Creek, the sighting of 4 Black-throated Green Warblers was awesome. Other good warblers on a 14-warbler species day were Tennessee, 12 Parulas, Chestnut-sided, 2 Magnolias, 12 American Redstarts, and Northern Waterthrush. Most of the birders observed a rare Wood Thrush at close range, but everyone got to watch a female Painted Bunting for several minutes. Some other good birds were a quick look at a Peregrine Falcon zooming by, a Merlin, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, late Chimney Swift, Empidonax Flycatcher, 2 Swainson's Thrushes, and 3 Indigo Buntings. Pumphouse Road was closed at Merritt Island NWR, but we did okay on Black Point Drive and Bio-rad Road along Indian River with 4 N. Pintails (earliest that I can ever remember), 4 Green-winged Teal (also early), another Merlin, 9 shorebird species, etc. Dinner at Dixie Crossroads was, as usual, outstanding. The day was long but rewarding.

At **Little Manatee S. P.** on a gorgeous day (Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>), a small group of us enjoyed the scenic 3-mile loop hike across the river from the main part of the park. Birds were scarce but we did observe a Bay-breasted Warbler, 4 Pine Warblers, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Red-shouldered Hawk among others. The creek itself was beautiful with its sand bottom being highlighted by the sun, as was small, shallow Cypress Creek at the terminus of our hike. Near the start of the hike we found some really nice Spider Orchids (*Habenaria odontopetalas*). Along the trail some of the Hickories had good crops of nuts which I'm sure the squirrels will savor. On our loop return through the scrub were a few Wild Olive bushes with fruit. Some of the Sand Pines were impressively large. We did see *Liatrus* (species) in

bloom here and there, but they were scraggly. Lunch was enjoyed back in the main area, after which we hiked down to the river where we chatted with some kayakers. At the edge of the river were some showy early-blooming Climbing Asters (*Aster carolinianus*). It was a fine day.

In 2007, I had taken a Bok Tower Gardens group to **Myakka River S.P.** for a very successful overnight field trip. So I scheduled a day trip for Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> for LRAS. It went extremely well. It's a long drive, but well worth the effort. Not



Myakka River S.P. Group by  
Paul Fellers

far from the park entrance was a Crested Caracara on the shoulder of the road—a very nice sighting. A dozen of us spent a bit windy, but otherwise sunny great day there with a busy schedule. We began by spending some time on the bridge over the Myakka River where we saw lots of Alligators and wading birds. Next was a 1.5-mile hike. It started with a nice group of birds in the woods along a wood road to a field edge with lots of flowers, especially bright yellow *Helianthus floridanus*. Our return on the loop trail was through the jungle-like woods. Then it was on to the Visitors' Center and on to a large sightseeing, relatively quiet airboat for an hour of cruising on Upper

Myakka Lake where we saw more wading birds and over 20 Alligators, many of them huge and one with its mouth agape to cool itself down. Lunch was enjoyed by a black-water creek in the north end of the huge park. The boardwalk out into the lake was extremely productive. Two of us had scopes, and we were all treated to scoping 70 Roseate Spoonbills, 700 Short-billed Dowitchers, an amazing 34 Black-bellied Plovers (highest inland Florida record that I am aware of), 40 Black-necked Stilts, 20 American Avocets, 15 Greater Yellowlegs, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1,000 Least Sandpipers, 40 Green-winged Teal, 3 Bald Eagles, Sharp-shinned Hawk, a high-flying Peregrine Falcon (first spotted by Liz Lane), etc. After the boardwalk, we took the short hike to the canopy walk: a suspension bridge hanging between two towers. It was neat watching a Northern Harrier from atop the 74' tower. The sighting of deer and wild hogs added to the day's adventure. All had gone smoothly, especially the sighting of so many good birds, 62 species in all.

The date, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, for the fall field trip to the **Lake Marion Creek Management Area** was chosen for the express purpose of coinciding with the blooming of several species of aster, and once again, the 8 of us were not disappointed. At the end of the 1.5-mile trail in the wet area was the most gorgeous display of the tall showy *Aster elliotii* that I've ever seen. There were a few Bushy Aster (*A. dumosus*), Climbing Aster (*A. carolinianus*), showy White-topped Aster (*A. reticulatus*), and another not-so-showy White-topped Aster (*A. tortifolius*). Snell Creek was running nice clear water but no Cardinal Flowers were seen. Also in the wet area were bright yellow Beggar-ticks (*Bidens mitis*), especially an outstanding group of at least 10 feet in diameter. One last "aster" that was common and grows in the dry area but not really an aster was Silvery-leaved Aster or Goldenaster (*Pityopsis graminifolia*). A few of one of my favorite wildflowers Blue Curlys (*Trichostema dichotomum*) still had a few blooms. Some of the Dahoon Hollies (*Ilex cassine*) were



Group at Lake Marion Creek by  
Paul Fellers

loaded with bright red berries. We did note about 40 American Robins just down from the North; the holly berries are one of their favorite foods. The best bird of the day on this first hike was a high flying light-phase Short-tailed Hawk and was a life bird for a visiting lady from PA. Another neat happening was watching 7 high-flying Sandhill Cranes doing lazy circles heading south, most likely northern birds still migrating. A short side hike to Snell Creek was a bit soggy, but we did find Wild Azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*) in full bud and several big clumps of Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*). The asters had been a big draw for some spectacular butterflies, especially Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, including a female dimorphic black form. The other common butterflies were Viceroy and Zebra Heliconium. Lunch was enjoyed at the Osceola District Schools Environmental Study Center. We took our final hike on the half-mile boardwalk down to Reedy Creek. Lots of Dahoon Holly, Popash, some huge Bald Cypress and big clumps of Royal Fern grew along the way. At the river was a plethora of life: a couple hundred White Ibis, pair of Woodstorks, several Anhingas, several wading birds, lots of turtles and even a few alligators including a 10-footer or so. It had been another fine day in the Florida outback.

November 21<sup>st</sup> found a good group of 18 of us trekkers on the 2.5-mile loop Pine/Palmetto flatwoods trail at **Disney Wilderness Preserve**. A few late-blooming wildflowers were along the way. We spent at least 15 minutes enjoying the pristine beauty of Lake Russell with all its picturesque giant Bald Cypress trees. A few showy Deer Tongue (*Carphephorus paniculatus*) were in their prime. Generally an October bloomer, a remnant population of blooming Blazing Star (*Liatrus* species) were also found. One of the small ponds had several white water lilies (*Nympha odorata*). Some of the other flowers were Yellow-eyed Grass (*Xyris fimbriata*), Yellow-star Grass (*Hypoxis juncea*), White-topped Aster (*A. reticulatus*), Bushy Aster (*A. dumosus*), Bog Bachelor-button (*Polygala lutea*), Yellow Bachelor's Button (*Polygala rugelii*), Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia juncea*; tiny but showy yellow flowers "whose modified underground leaves may trap minute insects in their bladder-like traps" according to Bell and Taylor in *Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants*), several species of goldenrod and a few others. We didn't see many birds, but we did see a pair of endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (first spotted by Liz Lane and surely recently introduced birds in a major effort to increase this rare species to the Preserve and the Avon Park Air Force Range). Some other birds seen were Black and White Warbler, Pine Warblers, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebirds, a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers (recently returned from the far north as were several migrating American Robins), Red-shouldered Hawk, a family of 3 Greater Sandhill Cranes, 4 Loggerhead Shrikes, American Crows, etc. A very cooperative 3-foot-long Yellow Rat Snake stopped for us right in the middle of the trail. Butterflies included Easter Tiger Swallowtail, Queen, White Peacock, Carolina Satyr, and Buckeye. We drove the short distance to the Osceola District Schools Environmental Center for lunch. In the middle of lunch I spotted a mature Bald Eagle flying by for our only eagle of the day. Our mile-long round-trip on the boardwalk to Reedy Creek was a grand success with the sighting of a 1.5' Cotton-mouth Moccasin off the boardwalk very near by a sharp-eyed member of the group. Some of the Dahoon Hollies (*Ilex cassine*) along the way were loaded with red berries. At the end at a wide spot in Reedy Creek, we found a variety of wildlife including Alligators (one well over 10'), many turtles presumably mostly Cooters, 100 or so White Ibis, lots of Anhingas, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, a Green Heron, etc. Above and beyond the call of duty, one of the men in the group went over the railing of the boardwalk to rescue a Queen butterfly from a big cobweb out about 20' away! I believe that I can safely say that everyone enjoyed the day out-of-doors. \*\*\*



Watching Red-cockaded Woodpeckers  
by Paul Fellers

## Lakeland Electric's Alternate Nesting Program and Weekly Osprey Watch

While electric lines and poles are necessary infrastructure to provide electricity to our community, Lakeland Electric (LE) is sensitive to the potential effects of their presence on local Osprey nesting grounds. We are very excited about the possibility of working with the Lake Region Audubon Society to expand our Alternate Nesting Program (ANP) for Ospreys and begin a Weekly Osprey Watch (WOW) on our facilities to improve response to Osprey Nesting activities in Lakeland.

LE currently uses several methods to safely deter Ospreys from landing on energized wires and nesting on utility poles. These methods include the installation of special devices on wires and poles to deter Osprey perching or landing on electric facilities, and installing alternative nesting platforms close to the Ospreys preferred pole nesting locations. We currently have over 20 of these alternative nesting sites in which Ospreys have made homes, returning each year to raise their young.

In order to expand LE's ANP we need the expertise of Audubon Members to help us identify proper locations for additional alternative nesting platforms. We would also like to initiate a WOW which will require Audubon Volunteers to each watch an assigned section of our electric lines and poles weekly for Osprey activity. If the reports of Osprey nesting activities are timely we believe the harm to the Osprey can be minimized. When an area is identified as a prime nesting spot we can further investigate the best means possible to make that location safe for Ospreys and their future nesting needs via line deterrents and/or ANPs. This will not only protect the Osprey but it will also increase the reliability of our service to the citizens of Lakeland.

We are committed to protecting the wildlife in and around Lakeland. With your help we can protect the Ospreys, increase reliability and form a partnership for a better ecosystem in Lakeland.

Above provided by Lakeland Electric.

**Editors note: This project should help Osprey's by preventing nesting in dangerous locations and help people by preventing electrical outages. Once we know who is willing to help, a meeting will be held with Lakeland Electric to provide information to the volunteers. Any member willing to help in this project should contact the editor at [editor@lakeregion.net](mailto:editor@lakeregion.net) . \*\*\***

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Lifers & Twitchers has just released the inaugural issue of our e-zine, The Birder - a magazine dedicated to birds and birding in South Africa. We would appreciate it if you could circulate this to your members. Read interesting articles about our birds, find out about our rare bird reports, birds facing conservation problems, as well as a host of beautiful bird pictures for you to view throughout the mag. Attached is a copy of the magazine. Members can also download the magazine by following this link: [www.lifers-birding.com/monthly-e-zine/](http://www.lifers-birding.com/monthly-e-zine/)

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Kind regards

Bronwyn

Bronwyn Howard & Jock Tame

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**Editors note:**

**This email was received and is included as an item that might be of interest to some.**

## Saddle Creek Park - Fall Migration 2009

Bob Snow

The migration began in mid August and we observed ten warbler species the first Saturday. Unfortunately, we struggled to find that many species on subsequent walks.

Not only were the number of species lower than usual, but the total number of birds as well. Based on reports I received from around the state, migration was slow everywhere, with the exception of south Florida. The total number of warbler species recorded this fall for Saddle Creek was twenty-three, which is the lowest I can remember in recent years. We didn't see Cerulean Warblers, again.

I have observed a change in numbers and date of arrival since the hurricanes of 2004. The peak for our fall migration was typically mid September. This peak now occurs in mid October. This year was no different, with the largest number of warbler species occurring on October 17<sup>th</sup>. We observed seventeen warbler species on this date. Fortunately, some of our veteran local birdwatchers as well as members of Orange Audubon and Kissimmee Valley Audubon were present to witness the best Saturday of the season.

A good thing for us this fall was the regular appearance of the Short-tailed Hawks. On several occasions, we observed a pair circling overhead. We even saw a dark morph Short-tailed Hawk, which is not as common as the light morph at Saddle Creek.

The appearance of feral cats at the park in recent years is disturbing and will not have a positive effect on our bird population. To add to the problem, local concerned citizens are feeding the cats, and new kittens appear on a regular basis. I have reported this situation to the Polk County Parks Department, with little hope of any action. Tom Palmer mentioned this development in one of his recent Ledger articles.

The total number of participants for the fall walks was 147. We had visitors from North Carolina, Australia, and local Audubon chapters, such as Sun City, Tampa, Orange and Kissimmee Valley. \*\*\*

### EVENING PROGRAMS

Marvel Loftus - 863-324-9657

January 4, 2010 Monday

Pizza & Film – Street Audubon Center 7 PM  
National Geographic: “Strange Days on Planet Earth 2, Part 1. Dangerous Catch”.  
\$1.00 per Slice or Salad

January 26, 2010 Tuesday

Circle B Bar Reserve 7 PM  
Gloria Brooke presents  
“Birds & Life in Cuba Today”  
Refreshments provided

February 1, 2010 Monday

Pizza & Film – Street Audubon Center 7 PM  
National Geographic: “Strange Days on Planet Earth 2, Part 2. Dirty Secrets”.  
\$1.00 per Slice or Salad

February 23, 2010 Tuesday

Circle B Bar Reserve 7PM  
Jeff Wells presents “Bats”  
Refreshments provided

March 1, 2010 Monday

Pizza & Film – Street Audubon Center 7 PM  
Jean – Michel Cousteau's: “Ocean Adventures, Part 1”.  
\$1.00 per Slice or Salad

March 23, 2010 Tuesday

Circle B Bar Reserve 7 PM  
Buck & Linda Cooper presents  
Butterflies of Southern Mexico  
Refreshments provided

## The New Kitchen at The Nature Center

By Bill Karnofsky

After a summer of working at Lake Region Audubon's Nature Center gutting and totally rebuilding the kitchen, we are happy to report the project has been completed. If you have ever been in the old kitchen, you simply will not believe the transformation. It is now totally modernized. As you walk in you will now find a commercial refrigerator, a commercial freezer, TWO brand new stoves, stainless steel counter tops, stainless steel working tables, new lighting, new exhaust system and totally repainted. For those who have had the misfortune of having had worked in the old kitchen, you will now find all the cabinet doors open and close.



Behind the scene, we installed a whole new electrical system with many outlets conveniently located and all new plumbing. With the new plumbing, we installed a commercial grade three bay sink, new sink in the hall by the cabinets, a hand sink and a mop sink on the back porch. Speaking of the back porch, it was totally gutted, the floor removed and all the support beams removed. It was jacked up and leveled, and all new support beams installed. We then installed a commercial grade floor running from the back porch, through the kitchen and into the hallway. (A special thanks to

**Ronnie's Carpets, Inc.** of Lakeland for a fabulous job.) \*\* see his ad in this issue\*\*

The old huge hot water tank in the kitchen is now gone, and an electric instant hot water heater has been installed.

And perhaps the most important thing done was to put in a water purification system. Gone are the days of undrinkable, overpowering sulfur smelling water. No one need carry in bottled water to drink or to make coffee or punch. Great water right from the tap!

The kitchen remodeling was the last part of a multi-year program bringing the Center up to new standards which will allow us to have functions in a location all of us can be proud of. After seeing the Center, you may even wish to hold some events there for your families or other organizations to which you belong.



Special recognition goes to **Lee Shoe**, without whom the success of this project would never have been achieved. He wants to give special thanks to Anthony Palermo who worked on the project every day along with Lee and me. \*\*\*



### Lake Region Web Site

The printed version of the *Eagle's View* is in black and white. For a full color version, check it out on the Lake Region web site at [www.lakeregion.net](http://www.lakeregion.net). The photographs are much nicer in full color.

## BIRD CLUB, LAKE REGION AUDUBON, TENTATIVE SCHEDULE NOV 12– APR 8, 2010

Schedules might change, call before coming if you aren't being notified on a regular basis.

MARVEL LOFTUS: Phone 863 324 9657 Cell 863 289 8188, E-mail [marvel.loftus@gmail.com](mailto:marvel.loftus@gmail.com)

## JANUARY 7, 2010 — MORRIS BRIDGE PARK, FLATWOODS PARK, &amp; HILLSBOROUGH RIVER STATE PARK, EAST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Meet at 8:00 at the McDonalds on County Line Road between I-4 and Hwy 92 or at Morris Bridge Park at 9:00AM. Directions: West I-4 to North I-75, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit, #266, Fletcher (582A). It is a right turn off of I-75 and at the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Morris Bridge Road. The Park is 5 mi. from I-75 on your left. Bring a Lunch. We will be taking short hikes.

## JANUARY 14, 2010 – MERRITT ISLAND REFUGE, TITUSVILLE, FL

Meet at 7:30 AM at Burger King on Hwy 27 and just North of I-4 or at 9:00 at the Boat Land on your left after crossing the inter-coastal bridge on CR406, the road to the refuge. Bring snacks. We will be eating at Dixie Crossroads at 3:30 PM. If you wish to join us, make your reservation by Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. Bring snacks. There will be very little hiking on this trip.

## JANUARY 21, 2010 — ST. JOHN RIVER CRUISE, BLUE SPRING STATE PARK

Meet at 7:45 at Burger King on Hwy 27 just north of I-4 or in Blue Spring State Park at boat dock by 9:15 AM. The parks address is 2100 West French Ave, Orange City, FL (#45 in the East Birding Trail book). Please check in with me before walking the Board Walk. The Boat Trip will leave at 10:00. \$18.00 per person, reservations is necessary, payment due by Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. There is an entrance fee into the park. Bring a lunch to eat after the boat ride and we will probably bird the park after lunch.

## JANUARY 28, 2010— MOSAIC PHOSPHATE MINES,

Meet at 8:00 AM in Bartow at the Publix Parking Lot, Hwy 60/98. Reservations are necessary. Paul Fellers will lead this trip.

## FEBRUARY 4, 2010 – VIERA WETLAND, MELBOURNE, FL

Meet at 7:00 AM at McDonalds in Haines City on Hwy 17/192, ½ mile east of Hwy 27. First stop will be Lake Toho in Kissimmee working our way to Brinson Park on Neptune Ave. We will leave there at 8:15 AM and drive to Burger King on Wick ham Road, Exit 191, off of North I-95 from Melbourne. Burger King is on the Northwest Corner of I-95 and Wick ham Road. This is a long day. Bring a lunch. Not much walking.

## FEBRUARY 11, 2010 – LAKE PARKER, LAKELAND, FL

Meet at 8:00 AM at the park located on the East side of Lake Parker, between Tanglewood St. and Canal Dr. N., on East Lake Parker Dr. across the street from the Moose Lodge. There will be small hikes around the parks. Bring lunch.

## FEBRUARY 18, 2010 – (Open for discussion)

## FEBRUARY 25, 2010 – TAMPA BAY AREA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AREA

Meet at 7:30 at McDonalds in Mulberry, Hwy 60 & SR 37, and Bring you lunch. There will be some hiking but not much. It will be a long day.

## MARCH 4, 2010 – PAYNES PRARIE, GAINSVILLE, FL

Meeting place will be announced

MARCH 11, 2010 - COLT CREEK STATE PARK, LAKELAND, FL

Meet at the park at 8:00, located on CR 471 north of Lakeland. Tram Ride. Limited space, reservations must be made by March 4, 2010. Bring lunch.

MARCH 18, 2010 - SEBASTIAN INLET STATE RECREATION AREA/PELICAN ISLAND WMA, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FL

Meet at 7:00 AM at the McDonalds in Lake Wales located on Hwy 60 and 11th on the south side of the road. Bring a lunch. There will not be much hiking. It will be a long day.

MARCH 25, 2010 - TOSOHATCHEE STATE PRESERVE

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Burger King on Hwy 27 just north of I-4 or at 8:30 AM at the gate of the Tosohatchee State Preserve on Taylor Creek Road, #61 in the East Great Fl Birding Trail. Bring a lunch and not much walking on this trip.

APRIL 1, 2010 - JOE OVERSTREET BOAT LANDING 3 LAKES REFUGE

Meet at 7:00 AM at the McDonalds in Lake Wales located on Hwy 60 and 11th on the south side of the road. We will go to Overstreet, #102, East Great Bird Trail and then end at 3 Lakes Wildlife Refuge, #103, for the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. If you want to see them, we might have to stay late. Bring a lunch. Not much hiking on this trip.

APRIL 8, 2010 — FT. DESOTO PARK, ST. PETERSBURG, FL #91 W. Great Bird Trail.

Meet at 7:00 AM at McDonalds in Mulberry, Hwy 60 & Hwy 37 or meet at 9:00 AM at the Tierra Verde duck ponds located just past the business section of Tierra Verde on the right side on CR 679, the road to Ft. DeSoto. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> stop will be the Boat Landing in the park. Bring a lunch and there will be some hiking on this trip. We bird to 3:00 PM.

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Dear Audubon Chapter Leader,

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Photo by Judy Howle

This year's Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be here before we know it! Based on ideas from all of you and others, we have compiled a list of ideas on how your Chapter can get involved, and how the GBBC can benefit your Chapter. We hope that you will participate this year!

This year's GBBC is scheduled for Presidents Day Weekend (February 12 - 15<sup>th</sup>). Please save these dates!

This year, we are promoting the GBBC as a great activity for families that's both free and educational, while also getting kids outside. In a time when people are cutting back expenses, the GBBC makes the perfect stay-cation.

For those of you less familiar with the GBBC, it's led by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and it provides an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about birds and the environment we share. Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to view this year's press release for the GBBC.

Below we have included ideas about how you can make the most of the thirteenth annual GBBC. You can start by exploring the GBBC website at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The website has photos from last year's count, a game, and other materials, including a downloadable PowerPoint presentation, a voice narrated tutorial, and regional bird lists.

**Why should your Chapter promote the GBBC?**



Ø **The GBBC provides a starting point for new visitors to explore your Chapter.** Many Chapters have found that including GBBC activities in existing programs and giving lectures about the GBBC are great ways to build interest in all of the Chapter's activities.

Ø **The GBBC gets lots of media coverage.** You can feed off this momentum by letting local media know about events going on at your Chapter.

Ø **The GBBC can spread the word about the great activities your Chapter is doing.** Many facets of the GBBC link to the great work your Chapter is already doing in education, monitoring, research, and habitat conservation. Be sure to talk about local threats to habitat in your region, Audubon at Home, and the Important Bird Area program.

### **What can your Chapter do to Make the Most of this opportunity?**

#### *Run Special Events*

Ø Incorporate GBBC activities in bird walks or other weekend programs. Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/learning/for-educator> for ideas. In colder climates, sponsor a combination winter-festival (showshoeing, sledding, skating) and GBBC day. Or you might hold a family (or singles) event with hot chocolate, hot cider and the GBBC.

Ø Provide hiking opportunities and field guides for people interested in the GBBC.

Ø Host an evening potluck gathering where GBBC participants can share their bird findings for the day, and to tally a collective list of species seen.

Ø Host a friendly bird watching competition! Here's one idea: using a whiteboard, display photos of birds you commonly see in the area. Ask Chapter visitors to place a check box next to the birds they spot. In the end, update all participants about how many birds you spotted collectively. Also, consider having a competition with another Chapter or local group to see who can spot the most number and/or types of birds!

#### *Offer Workshops/Courses*

Ø Offer courses in basic birding skills prior to and/or during GBBC. Offer both adult and kid-oriented courses.

Ø Host lectures/workshops on how Audubon At Home (AAH) can connect to GBBC. For example, discuss how to attract more birds to your yard using AAH principles and materials and how to use GBBC as a way to measure the success of your efforts. For more information, visit [www.audubonathome.org](http://www.audubonathome.org).

Ø Host a workshop to build bird feeders to use during GBBC.

#### *Reach out to Young People*

Ø Arrange for adult birders to mentor younger folks about birding, observation skills and protocols.

Ø Visit your Audubon Adventures classrooms and lead them in a one-period activity that includes getting outdoors and participating in the GBBC.

Ø Conduct a bird poster or photo contest for kids. Display winners in a heavily trafficked spot. Send us a sample entry and we will post it on our website!

Ø Design a regionally specific bird-behavior scavenger hunt. An outline of a scavenger hunt can be found at [sc.audubon.org/PDFs/bird\\_behavior\\_hunt.pdf](http://sc.audubon.org/PDFs/bird_behavior_hunt.pdf).

#### *Create Bird Habitat*

Ø Host a GBBC workshop to discuss native plants and bird habitat. Provide participants with landscaping ideas, native plant sources, and other materials. You might offer to collect plant and seed orders or order native seeds ahead of time and hold a native seed sale to raise money.

#### *Take Advantage of the Momentum!*

Ø Provide opportunities for people to submit stories, photos, or poems about their experiences participating in the GBBC. You could highlight these stories and photos in your Chapter newsletter or on your web site.

Ø Talk to local media about activities you're doing around the GBBC. We've included some talking points and fun facts below that you might find helpful.

#### **Be in Touch:**

If your Chapter is planning an event around the GBBC, email details to [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org) and we will make sure it's posted on [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

Soon your Chapter will receive posters that you can use to promote the GBBC. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Melissa Hopkins at [mhopkins@audubon.org](mailto:mhopkins@audubon.org)

**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 who 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 Work Day 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.

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**Activity Schedule****January**

**4<sup>th</sup> "Monday Movie and Pizza Night"** (Monday) Street Audubon Center 7:00PM National Geographic "Strange Days on Planet Earth 2, Part 1 Dangerous Catch" Pizza \$1.00 per slice, Salad \$1.00 per serving For more information contact Marvel Loftus, 863-289-8188.

**6<sup>th</sup> "Lake Region Audubon Society - Board Meeting"** (Wednesday)  
7:00PM Street Audubon Center ; 6:30PM Pre-meeting Pizza, \$ (TBA)

**9<sup>th</sup> "LRAS Bird Trip Mosaic Phosphate Mines"** (Saturday) 8:00AM Meet at the Bartow Publix parking lot for carpooling. Make sure your gas tank is full. Lunch will be provided. Reservations required. Contact Paul Fellers at 293-0486.

**11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> "Bird Classes in January"** (Mondays) 6:00 – 8:30PM Street Audubon Center Instructor, Paul Fellers, 293-0486.

**26<sup>th</sup> "Circle Bar B Reserve:** (Thursday) Gloria Brooke presents **"Birds and Life in Cuba Today"** 7:00PM Refreshments provided. For more information call Marvel Loftus at 863-324-9657

**30<sup>th</sup>, Sat, Merritt Island NWP.** Black Point drive, Oak Hammock, Crossover Canal (Manatees), Bio Lab Road by Indian River Visitor Center, Playalinda Beach (seabirds). Bring snacks, early dinner at famous Dixie Crossroads Restaurant. Meet at Street Audubon Center at 7 AM to carpool. **Paul Fellers 863-293-0486**

## February

**1<sup>st</sup> “Monday Movie and Pizza Night”** (Monday) Street Audubon Center 7:00PM National Geographic “Strange Days on Planet Earth 2, Part 2 Dirty Seeds” Pizza \$1.00 per slice, Salad \$1.00 per serving For more information contact Marvel Loftus, 863-289-8188.

**1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> “Bird Classes in February”** (Mondays) 6:00 – 8:30PM Street Audubon Center Instructor, Paul Fellers, 293-0486.

**6<sup>th</sup> “Workday” Street Audubon Center”** (Saturday) 9:00AM till 12:00PM Come help clean up the grounds and trails. For more information contact, Paul Anderson at 965-8241.

**10<sup>th</sup> “Lake Region Audubon Society - Board Meeting”** (Wednesday) 7:00PM Street Audubon Center ; 6:30PM Pre-meeting Pizza, \$ (TBA)

**23<sup>rd</sup> “Circle Bar B Reserve:** (Tuesday) Jeff Wells presents “**Bats**” 7:00PM Refreshments provided. For more information call Marvel Loftus at 863-324-9657

## March

**1<sup>st</sup> “Monday Movie and Pizza Night”** (Monday) Street Audubon Center “Jean-Michel Cousteau’s Ocean Adventures” Part 1 7:00PM Pizza \$1.00 per slice, Salad \$1.00 per serving For more information contact Marvel Loftus, 863-289-8188

**6<sup>th</sup> “Workday” Street Audubon Center”** (Saturday) 9:00AM till 12:00PM Come help clean up the grounds and trails. For more information contact, Paul Anderson at 965-8241.

**10<sup>th</sup> “Lake Region Audubon Society - Board Meeting”** (Wednesday) 7:00PM Street Audubon Center: General membership meeting including the election of Board Members. 6:30PM Pre-meeting Pizza, \$ (TBA)

**13<sup>th</sup> “Nature Faire for Children** (Saturday) Street Audubon Center 10:00AM till 2:00PM This annual event celebrates nature with crafts and hands on activities. It is great fun for the whole family. For more information contact event Chairperson, Janet Anderson 965-8241.

**23<sup>rd</sup> “Circle Bar B Reserve:** (Tuesday) Buck and Linda Cooper present “**Butterflies of Southern Mexico**” 7:00PM Refreshments provided. For more information call Marvel Loftus at 863-324-9657

**27<sup>th</sup> “Green Swamp Field Trip”** (Saturday) 8:00AM Meet at the *Rails to Trails* trailhead in Polk City to carpool. Bring lunch, drinks, and have a full tank of gas. Contact fieldtrip leader, Paul Fellers for more information at 293-0486.

## April

**3<sup>rd</sup> “Workday” Street Audubon Center”** (Saturday) 9:00AM till 12:00PM Come help clean up the grounds and trails. For more information contact, Paul Anderson at 965-8241.

**5<sup>th</sup> “Monday Movie and Pizza Night”** (Monday) Street Audubon Center Movie Title TBA 7:00PM . Pizza \$1.00 per slice, Salad \$1.00 per serving For more information contact Lee Shoe at 863-632-1675.

**14<sup>th</sup> “Lake Region Audubon Society - Board Meeting”** (Wednesday); 7:00PM Street Audubon Center; 6:30PM Pre-meeting Pizza, \$ (TBA)

**17<sup>th</sup> “Fort DeSoto State Park Birding Trip”** (Saturday) 7:00AM Meet at the Lake Mirror Center, in Lakeland to carpool. Bring lunch, drinks, and have a full tank of gas. Contact fieldtrip leader, Paul Fellers for more information at 293-0486.

Random Images



## 2009 - 2010 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, Paul Anderson, Paul Fellers, Janet Anderson, Marvel Loftus, Lee Shoe, Martha Sue Brantley, Susan Schenk

VP/Programs: Marvel Loftus  
 VP/Conservation: Chuck Geanangel 863-326-5748  
 VP/Field Trips: Paul Fellers 863-293-0486  
 VP Membership:  
 Newsletter: Herman Moulden editor@lakeregion.net  
 Treasurer: Bill Karnofsky 863-324-5282  
 Recording Sec: Susan Schenk  
 Corresponding Sec: Liz Purnell 863-324-3181

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

### 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  
C07 E25 07**

**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*.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Injured Birds and Animals**

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**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**



Roseate Spoonbill flying at the Lake  
John Rookery

by Herman